

TUC anxious over ERM threat to jobs

Unions to offer agreement on wage restraint

By PHILIP BASSETT AND TIM JONES

TRADES union leaders will tell the government next week that they will act "responsibly" on wages if, in turn, ministers and employers play their part to protect jobs.

This is the first time the TUC has indicated a willingness to enter some sort of agreement on wages with the government since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, and it indicates its concern about the prospect of heavy job losses as a result of joining the European exchange rate mechanism.

The move comes as unions continue to seek and achieve wage deals in line with or above the rate of inflation. On Wednesday, Rover offered its 27,000 car workers 11 per cent. Gas workers are seeking 20 per cent, local government workers yesterday put in a claim for 15 per cent, and Jaguar has offered its 9,500 employees 12.5 per cent. A ballot on that offer may be delayed because of shop-floor unease over the package which involves sweeping changes in work practices.

The TUC's new approach is outlined in a confidential policy document on Europe

after 1992 that has been prepared for next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council. It quotes a recent economic analysis by Goldman-Sachs predicting that reducing inflation to 4 per cent by 1995 could cost Britain output growth equal to 4 per cent and increase unemployment by 500,000, and says: "The trade union movement is willing to accept its responsibilities to avoid such costs provided others are willing to respond in kind."

This is the hardest statement on pay the TUC has made since the final days of the last Labour government. Then, the trade unions entered a "social contract" with the government, agreeing to wage restraint in return for pro-union legislation, but Labour's incomes policies eventually broke down in the strikes of the 1978-79 "winter of discontent".

Neither this government nor the unions are likely to be interested in any such formal incomes policy, but the mere fact that the TUC is to make such a statement at the only forum in which it regularly meets the government and employers will be regarded as important. Before the 1983 election, the TUC told the NEDC that it would discuss only an unspecified range of economic issues with a Conservative government and employers.

But the prospect of heavy job losses is clearly real enough for the TUC to propose more responsible wage bargaining — the first time it has ever gone so far as to accept that it has "responsibilities" over pay. This week John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said that unemployment would rise by a million unless wage settlements were lower. Michael Howard, the employment secretary who will chair next week's NEDC meeting, has also been vociferous in his insistence that ERM membership means wage deals must be lower if jobs are not to be lost.

But the TUC says that looking at wages alone will not solve Britain's difficulties over inflation. "The disciplines of ERM membership apply just as much to govern-



A British soldier surveys the scene of the Londonderry "proxy bombing"

Implants hope for mothers aged 50

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

OLDER women who have

passed the menopause are

fully capable of bearing chil-

dren when implanted with

fertilised ova, a US medical

team reported yesterday. The

research by the University of

Southern California was

hailed as a breakthrough that

could help bring women to

maturity in their forties and

more.

"Such doubts will be re-

inforced by the prospect of a

delay in the Jaguar ballot and

the town hall workers' pay

claim, which presents a direct

challenge to ministers who

have indicated that they want

public sector pay rises to be

contained to about 7 per cent.

Last night, Mr John Allen,

one of the two chief union

negotiators responsible for the

Jaguar deal, confirmed that

the ballot, which was to have

begun on Monday, may be

postponed while its implica-

tions are explained more fully

to the workers. Mr Allen, an

executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering

Continued on page 26, col 5

Labour's green team expands

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK yesterday strengthened his party's commitment to the environment by allocating a second post in his shadow cabinet to cover the subject.

Ann Taylor, elected for the first time on Wednesday, has been given the post of spokesman on environmental protection, working alongside Bryan Gould, the shadow environmental secretary.

Labour officials denied that the appointment represented a downgrading in the position of Mr Gould following his disappointing result in the annual elections. Mrs Taylor, previously his deputy, has, however, clearly been given additional responsibilities, including that of speaking on global warming, which were previously the preserve of Mr Gould.

"The limits on the childbearing years are now anyone's guess," said the New England Journal of Medicine, which published the research. "Perhaps they will have more to do with the stamina required for labour and 2am feedings than with reproductive function." However, the Journal and some eminent specialists are worried that this latest advance extended the troubling moral issues surrounding reproductive science. Among them is the practice of poor, younger women acting as suppliers of babies and now eggs to wealthier buyers of the surrogacy.

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Nadir. These debts are in respect of purchases by Mr Nadir of shares in Poly Peck International in September."

BZW said it had been seeking settlement from Mr Nadir since the first transaction fell due for payment at the start of this month.

Mr Nadir is believed to owe money to other firms in the City. But BZW said it had acted alone in petitioning for bankruptcy.

BZW's move came as Poly Peck directors, including Mr Nadir, successfully applied to have the group put into administration, a move that gives the company immediate protection from its creditors. Poly Peck is believed to owe banks and other creditors well over £1 billion.

Report to DTI, page 27

Mr Nadir, chairman of Poly Peck International, has been started by BZW Securities, the City firm.

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IRA 'held rehearsals of checkpoint bombings'

By JAMIE DEUTTERER

THE IRA carried out several rehearsals for the proxy bombings unleashed with devastating effect on Wednesday against the army checkpoints at Londonderry and Newry, security forces believe.

Hoax proxy bomb attacks were made against both border checkpoints in the past 12 months. The dry runs are thought to have been crucial for the bombers, who clearly timed Wednesday's attacks to the split second.

The fake bombings in Newry were carbon-copies of Wednesday's attack. On one of the hoaxes, a local man was forced to drive his car to the Newry checkpoint after being told that a package in the passenger seat beside him was a bomb. The man alerted soldiers after jumping out of his vehicle near the checkpoint.

The IRA has used proxy bombers before. Last year, a man was forced to drive a bomb up to the high court in Belfast. Until Wednesday, however, no proxy bomber had been killed. Security experts are worried about the use of "human bombs".

There is also growing concern that the IRA might have triggered Wednesday's bombs by radio signal, instead of using timing devices. That would mean that the IRA has discovered a wavelength not intercepted by the sophisticated electronic counter measures (ECMs) set up around the Londonderry and Newry checkpoints as a protection from radio detection.

For years, the IRA has tried to find ways round the ECMS used to help protect military bases and patrolling soldiers from bomb attack. At least one soldier in the four-man patrol seen on the streets of Belfast and Londonderry wears an ECM pack on his back, capable of intercepting a radio signal within a few hundred yards.

Recently, members of the IRA on an armed purchasing trip in the United States explored the possibility of using lasers to trigger bombs. They are also believed to have discussed with American electronic experts the possibility of using new radar wavelengths not usually monitored by standard ECM equipment.

Yesterday, army bomb experts were still examining fragments of the Londonderry and Newry bombs. The proxy bomb that failed to detonate properly outside the army barracks at Omagh on Wednesday was being scrutinized as well. The condition of one of the soldiers seriously injured in the Londonderry bombing was also giving cause for concern.

In the wake of the "proxy" bombings, Sinn Fein yes-

terday appealed to the government to talk to the IRA. The organisation said that it was time the government realised that the responsibility for what happened at the two military check-points "does not solely belong to the IRA".

Martin McGuinness, a member of Sinn Fein's national executive, said Britain's refusal to face up to its role in the conflict "guarantees a continuation of the tragic circumstances we all find ourselves in".

Six of the eight men arrested in Donegal soon after the bombing of the checkpoint at Londonderry are likely to be charged with membership of the IRA. Several of the men are believed to come from Londonderry. They were arrested in two houses in Donegal, three miles from the border.

Meanwhile, the protestant murdered in South Belfast yesterday had been released from police custody only hours before he was shot, it has emerged.



President Cossiga of Italy, left, was joined by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Oxford university's chancellor, in the Sheldonian Theatre yesterday. His visit was in conjunction with the restoration of Italian studies

Call for countryside alliance

By JOHN YOUNG

A CALL for a new alliance between farmers and environmentalists was made yesterday by David Astor, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. He was addressing the biggest rally of farmers to be held in London for many years.

The rally was called to protest at the worst recession in agriculture since the war, caused by over-production, falling prices and the prospect of a sharp decrease in farm subsidies.

Mr Astor, the first member of the "green" lobby to be invited by the National Farmers' Union to address a meet-

ing of this kind, was given a generous reception when he said that farmers and conservationists should join together to press for new direct environmental management payments as a quid pro quo for accepting lower prices for their produce.

Referring to the proposed 30 per cent cut in EC farm support that is to be put to the meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in December, Mr Astor said the real danger was that EC members, including Britain, would see the GATT talks as an opportunity to fill gaping Treasury coffers with savings from the costly Com-

mon Agricultural Policy budget.

"A concerted and united effort by farmers and conservationists is needed to divert at least some of those savings into payments which will reward farmers for their vital role in protecting and nurturing the environment," he said. "We must unite to see that this money goes to farmers. An ostrich-like approach go the GATT talks hoping that pressure for price cuts will go away, will do no-one any good," Mr Astor said.

"Like it or not farm product price cuts are inevitable. But price cuts must not be implemented on their own. All

conservationists recognise that if we are to maintain the beauty and variety of the countryside it must be farmed.

Farmers were the only people who actually knew how to look after the countryside. "Farming and conservation should go hand in hand," he said.

John Ross, president of the Scottish NFU, was given a near ovation when he declared that the average farmer earned less in a year than "the manipulators of wealth in the City took home in a month".

Income was far below the national average and even below farmworkers' pay. What happened in the 1930s is not forgotten," he said. "Industry and the countryside were allowed to fall into dereliction."

Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the NFU of England and Wales, was frequently heckled during his speech, in which he warned that recession in agriculture could cause massive rural dereliction.

Further recession would be an inevitable consequence of using unrestrained market forces to implement the reductions in farm support, he said. The EC should switch policies to manage production to enable traditional farming systems to survive and deliver the countryside the public was asking for.

Instead of giving passengers more choice and a better service, bus operators worry about being accused by the Office of Fair Trading of breaking competition rules if they co-operate on routes and they see no reason why they should publicise competitor timetables, particularly on routes where more than one firm runs services.

A survey of bus services found that timetables around public holidays such as Christmas and Easter were particularly bad. On one route in

Report criticises 'unreliable' buses

By RAY CLANCY

PASSENGERS are unable to rely on the time and cost of journeys four years after deregulation of the bus industry because schedules are changed without notice and fare information is rarely displayed, according to a report.

Half the bus stops in the country do not display a timetable, and when they do they are usually out of date and changes are rarely posted.

Although 92 per cent of buses show their destination, not all display their route number and only one in five shows intermediate stops, the report from the National Consumer Council and Buswatch, an independent monitoring group, says.

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Breach of rights claim by sex offenders upheld

By BILL FROST

THREE sex offenders who were given discretionary life sentences yesterday won a claim against the government for breaching their human rights.

A landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg means a new judicial review body will almost certainly be established to consider such prison terms.

The court upheld the claim by the three men, Michael Thynne, Benjamin Wilson and Edward Gunnell, that the lack of a judicial review procedure was a breach of the European Rights Convention.

The three were given discretionary sentences for various sex offences. Such sentences are reviewed after a fixed period. Mr Wilson and Mr Gunnell were freed after review, only to be recalled to prison as a possible threat to the community, even though no further offence had been committed.

The Strasbourg judges ruled yesterday that such action was contrary to European Convention articles, which guarantee that any individual deprived of freedom is entitled to a review in a court of law.

Penal reformers in Britain described the European Court ruling as most welcome and long overdue. Paul Cavardino,

of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro), said: "Discretionary sentencing is an objectionable practice carried out by executive decree."

He called for an amendment to be drafted to the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill. "The proposed legislation should include provisions for the establishment of a judicial body to decide on both release under licence and on the recall of offenders."

Ncro suggested that any judicial review body set up to consider the custom and practice of sentencing should be chaired by a lawyer and made up of lay members from the community.

One of Britain's most notorious murderers, Thomas "TC" Campbell, sentenced to life imprisonment for killing six members of a family during the Glasgow "Ice Cream War", has been allowed to take the government to the European Court of Human Rights.

Campbell, aged 37, who was jailed for a minimum of 20 years in 1984, claims that the Scottish Prison Service has opened letters he has written to his solicitors and the European Commission of Human Rights in violation of an article referring to the "right to respect for correspondence".

Five held after £3m drug find

Five men were being questioned by customs officers yesterday after the seizure of cocaine worth £3 million at Heathrow Airport.

Officers found 1.8kg of the drug concealed in the luggage of four men who arrived from the Caribbean island of Antigua, a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

The men were arrested by customs investigators together with another man who was an employee at the airport. All five are believed to come from the London area.

The find, which followed a tip-off from Antiguan authorities, is the biggest seizure of cocaine directly imported from the West Indies, officials say.

Fans charged
Six Inter Milan fans have been charged in relation to fan throwing incidents during their team's European game against Aston Villa, in Birmingham on Wednesday night. There were 10 arrests and nine ejections during the game, which was attended by 36,461 people. A police spokesman said there had been no other incidents and congratulated both sets of supporters.

Job losses

The defence contractor VSEL of Barrow, in Cumbria, yesterday issued compulsory redundancy notices to 144 staff workers after failing to attract sufficient voluntary redundancies for the 550 job losses the company is seeking.

The unions concerned recently held a ballot on possible strike action against compulsory redundancies. The result of the ballot was not known yesterday.

Dog controls

THE government is planning to give local authorities wider powers to control dogs, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, disclosed yesterday. The powers could include banning dogs from parks at certain times of day. Bylaws that make dog owners responsible for removing their pets' faeces from recreation areas could also be extended to include footpaths, shopping precincts, gutters and grass verges.

Libel victory

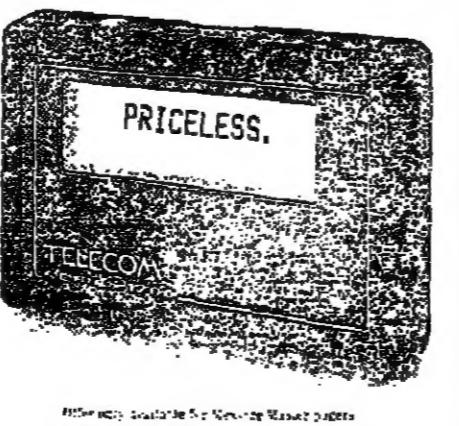
Lord Weidenfeld won an undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a story in *The Sunday Correspondent*. It had alleged that the outcome of a business venture with an American publisher had grave implications for the publishing company Weidenfeld and Nicolson, of which Lord Weidenfeld is chairman. The newspaper accepted that the allegation was untrue.

CORRECTION

The PR Week Award for the best use of sponsorship reported in yesterday's paper was won by the marketing and sponsorship consultants Spend Communications who devised the Museums Year Campaign on behalf of the Museums Association and sponsors *The Times*, Shell, Touche Ross and Raiffeisen.

Boycott The Times overseas edition costs \$1.75; Canada \$2.75; Australia \$3.75; France F10.00; Germany DM 5.80; Italy L 3.00; Japan Y100; Mexico M 10.00; New Zealand \$1.00; Pakistan Rs 15; Portugal Esc 12.00; Switzerland S Frs 1.20; USA \$2.50.

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MPs ticked off over foreign jaunts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

PARLIAMENTARIANS serving on Commons select committees have been ticked off for spending more than £345,000 a year on jaunts abroad. The trips include an expenses-paid tour of the Brazilian rain forests by members of the environment committee who came face to face with civil servants on an identical tour also funded by the taxpayer.

A ten-year inquest into the select committee system yesterday demanded cuts in the number of visits after finding that MPs choose enquiries on the basis of the scope for trips abroad. The employment committee, for example, wanted to set out for the Far East without any plans for a specific enquiry.

The criticism coincides with the start of an extensive tour of southern Africa by the foreign affairs committee and the defence committee's plans to visit British troops in the Gulf. MPs travel class within Europe but enjoy the more expensive club class on intercontinental flights.

To make matters worse the

liaison committee that vets applications for such trips is full of the chairmen of the committees applying.

While the procedure committee concludes that the network of committees shadowing government departments are a bargain, it wants the MPs to spend more time at Westminster by making more use of written evidence and bringing overseas witnesses to the Commons.

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The Working of the Select Committee System: Commons Select Committee Report (Stationery Office £12.50)

expected only the committees on foreign affairs, defence and trade would need to venture abroad. In recent years, however, Terence Higgins, chairman of the liaison committee, has had to persuade chairmen to trim extravagant itineraries. The procedure committee wants to go further by setting up a special committee of MPs with no direct vested interest to vet the applications.

During the select committee's first 10 years, they have cost £24,278,103. Last year committee costs amounted to £3,492,345 compared with the total annual Commons budget of nearly £26 million.

The procedure committee rejects ideas for modelling the system on the US congressional committees, by grant-

ing powers to demand evidence from ministers and officials, but suggests that more time be spent on monitoring spending than on headline-catching enquiries.

The year-long enquiry also discovered that relations between committee MPs and bureaucrats are not always smooth. Michael Meacher, the defence committee chairman, complained of a "Ministry of Defence culture" with officials reluctant to admit the date unless under pressure. The report also told the Treasury to adopt a less restrictive and more helpful attitude to committee inquiries.

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Warren questioned about £4m debts at time of shooting

By MICHAEL HORNELL

FRANK Warren claimed he was the victim of court-room character assassination yesterday when he was quizzed about his relationship with a flower girl and about more than £4 million he owed at the end of last year when he was shot by a masked gunman.

The boxing promoter's outburst came while he was being cross-examined at the Central Criminal Court by Richard Ferguson, QC, who is defending Terry Marsh, aged 32, the former world boxing champion. Mr Marsh denies attempting to murder Mr Warren, his former manager.

Mr Warren, aged 38, said: "I came here because someone tried to shoot me. Now I am getting character assassination. You are going into these things. I don't see the relevance." Mr Ferguson said that he was examining the possible motives of a number of other people who might have been the gunman instead of Mr Marsh. Mr Warren replied: "The purpose of the defence is to throw as much mud as possible hoping some will stick."

He told the court that, at the end of last year, he had debts of up to £24.25 million and that a number of writs had been issued against him seeking the repayment of money. Mr Warren was taken through a list of debts, but denied his business empire was crumbling at the time of the shooting.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Marsh's motive for shooting him was his fear of financial ruin and public humiliation over a libel writ issued against him by the boxing promoter. The jury has been told, however, that Mr Marsh was anxious the action should go ahead in February and that it was Mr Warren who sought its postponement.

Mr Ferguson suggested to Mr Warren that, by February 1990, he had paid £14.920 costs for an earlier action that he had lost in which he sought an injunction preventing Nigel Bean, the boxer, from fighting for another manager.

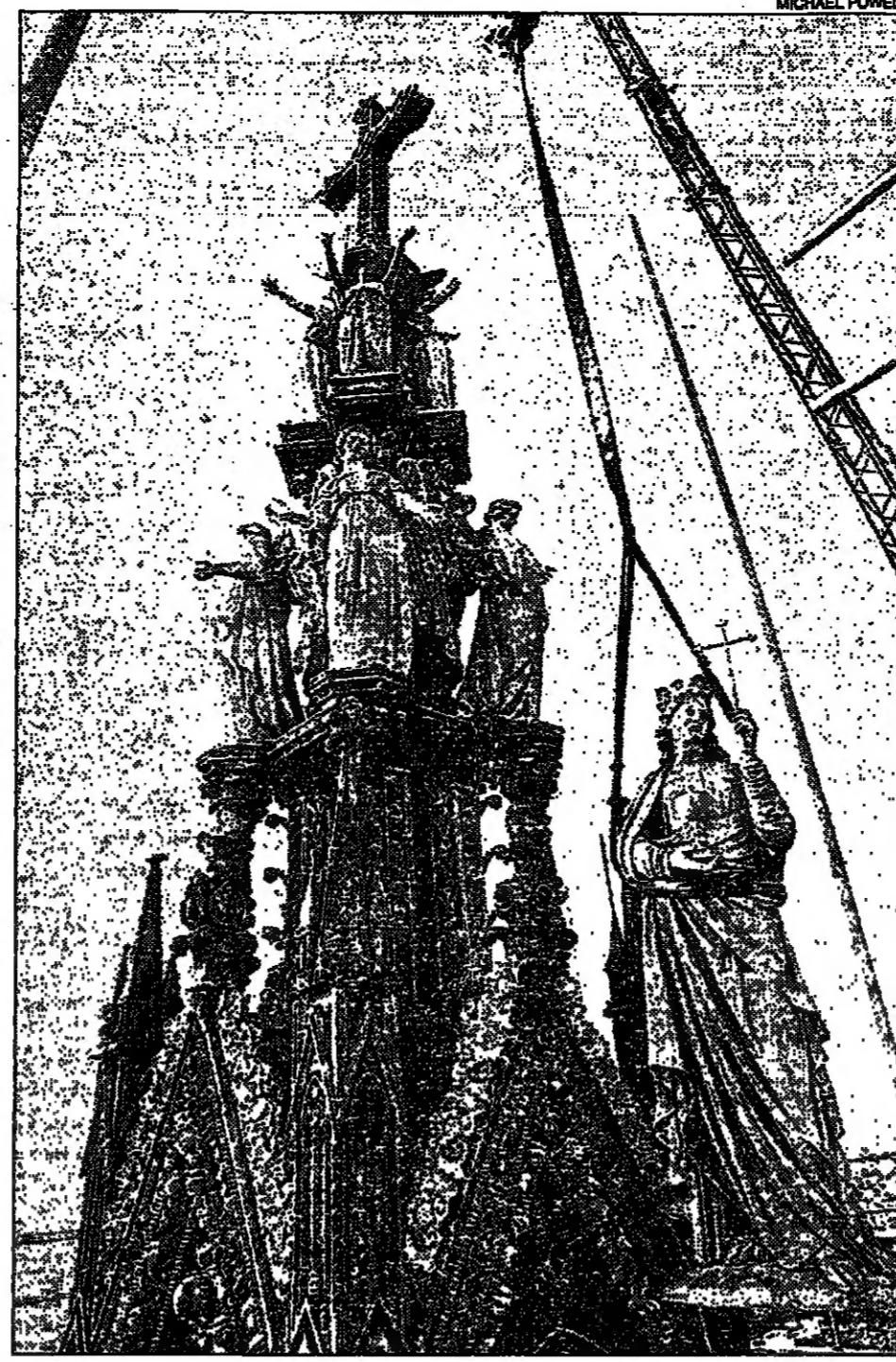
Mr Ferguson suggested that the defendant wanted the libel action brought to court because he feared that Mr Warren would be bankrupted and unable to pay damages and costs if Mr Marsh won the case.

The court heard that Mr Warren had had a relationship with a girl who was running a flower business at Romford, east London. He could not recall telling the girl he was planning to go to the promotion where he was shot in Barking, northeast London, on November 30 1989, or that they had discussed her attending.

Mr Warren, who has denied receiving threats against his life, confirmed that a boxing promotion of his at Windsor in 1987 was disrupted by a bomb scare that he agreed could have been intended to harm him financially, and recalled a tear gas incident at a promotion in Birmingham the following year.

Mr Ferguson then suggested that Mr Warren's lifestyle and business meant that he had met men of violence or potential violence. He had been involved in boxing, installing pool tables, the licensed trade and unlicensed boxing. Did he not come across violent people? Mr Warren replied: "Boxing is a controlled violence sport. There are people in it who have come from working class backgrounds and have been in trouble. You come across them but, to the best of my knowledge, I have not had business dealings with shady characters."

The trial continues today.



"Faith", one of the statues from the Albert Memorial, in Kensington Gardens, London, being removed yesterday during restoration work on the landmark.

Polys face test on teaching quality

By JOHN OLEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLYTECHNICs and colleges would have to demonstrate that they provide high-quality teaching to qualify for extra financial support under proposals published yesterday by their funding council.

A committee chaired by Lady Warnock, mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, suggested tests of teaching quality, involving employers and students as well as academics in assessment. Only those institutions meeting basic criteria would be eligible for enhanced funding.

The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, which commissioned the report, rewards high quality with extra student places, but it has no yardstick to measure teaching standards. William Stubbs, chief executive of the council, said that the report was the first national study of teaching in higher education.

The report recommended a system of self-evaluation by polytechnics and colleges approved by the council. The committee said: "We believe that teaching quality can be approved if and only if the key role of the teaching staff is properly recognised and if the institutions become truly self-evaluating." Lady Warnock said: "The institutions will be further challenged by an expansion in the number of

students with different backgrounds and expectations. They must all receive good teaching which fits them well for their future lives."

Proposals from government advisers for broadening the sixth form curriculum are effectively rejected today by Michael Fallon, the schools minister.

Mr Fallon's comments on the BBC2 'Public Eye' programme come on the last day of consultation on the review of A and AS levels carried out by the Schools Examination and Assessment Council.

Kasparov adjourns chess contest

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world chess champion, has adjourned the sixth game of the World Chess Championship in New York, in a position where he is pressing for a win.

White's winning chances reside primarily in the exposed situation of the black king, which may fall prey to a combined assault from white's pieces. Nevertheless, the black position is extremely solid and Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, also enjoys an extra pawn, which he may throw back at any moment to deflect Kasparov from his attacking schemes. It is a measure of the

difficulty of the adjourned position that Kasparov spent 29 minutes over his sealed 42nd move.

Kasparov (white) Karpov (black)

White Black White Black

1 e4 a5 17 Nc3 Bg5

2 Nf3 Nc6 18 Nf2

3 d4 b5 19 d5 c5

4 Nc3 Bb7 20 Nf7

5 e5 Bf5 21 Ng4 Rg8

6 Rf1 b5 22 Ne3 Nf6

7 Bb3 d6 23 Nf5 Bf5

8 c3 d5 24 Bg5 Nf7

9 Nf3 Nf6 25 Nc4 Bxg5

10 d4 Bf5 26 Nc4 Qc4

11 e5 Bb7 27 Nc4 Qc4

12 Nbd2 Bb5 28 Ne3 h5

13 Rxf5 Qxf5 29 Rf2 h4

14 Nc4 Qe5 30 Rf1 h3

15 Bc2 Nc6 31 Rf2 Qc7

16 Nbd2 Nc6 32 Rf2 Qc7

17 Nc3 Bg5 33 Rf3 h5

18 Nf2 Rf7 34 Qd4 Kf6

19 d5 c5 35 Rxf5 Kf7

20 Nf7 Rf7 36 Qd5 Kf6

21 Ng4 Rg8 37 Qd5 g5

22 Ne3 Nf6 38 Qd5 g5

23 Nf5 Bf5 39 Qd5 Kf6

24 Bg5 Nf7 40 Qd5 Kf6

25 Nc4 Bxg5 41 Rf5 Bg7

26 Nc4 Qc4 42 Rf5 Bg7

27 Nc4 Qc4 43 Rf5 Bg7

28 Ne3 h5 44 Rf5 Bg7

29 Rf2 h4 45 Rf5 Bg7

30 Rf2 Qc7 46 Rf5 Bg7

31 Rf2 Qc7 47 Rf5 Bg7

32 Rf2 Qc7 48 Rf5 Bg7

33 Rf3 h5 49 Rf5 Bg7

34 Qd4 Kf6 50 Rf5 Bg7

35 Rxf5 Kf7 51 Rf5 Bg7

36 Qd5 Kf6 52 Rf5 Bg7

37 Qd5 g5 53 Rf5 Bg7

38 Qd5 g5 54 Rf5 Bg7

39 Qd5 g5 55 Rf5 Bg7

40 Qd5 g5 56 Rf5 Bg7

41 Rf5 Bg7 57 Rf5 Bg7

42 Rf5 Bg7 58 Rf5 Bg7

43 Rf5 Bg7 59 Rf5 Bg7

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97 Rf5 Bg7 113 Rf5 Bg7

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99 Rf5 Bg7 115 Rf5 Bg7

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101 Rf5 Bg7 117 Rf5 Bg7

102 Rf5 Bg7 118 Rf5 Bg7

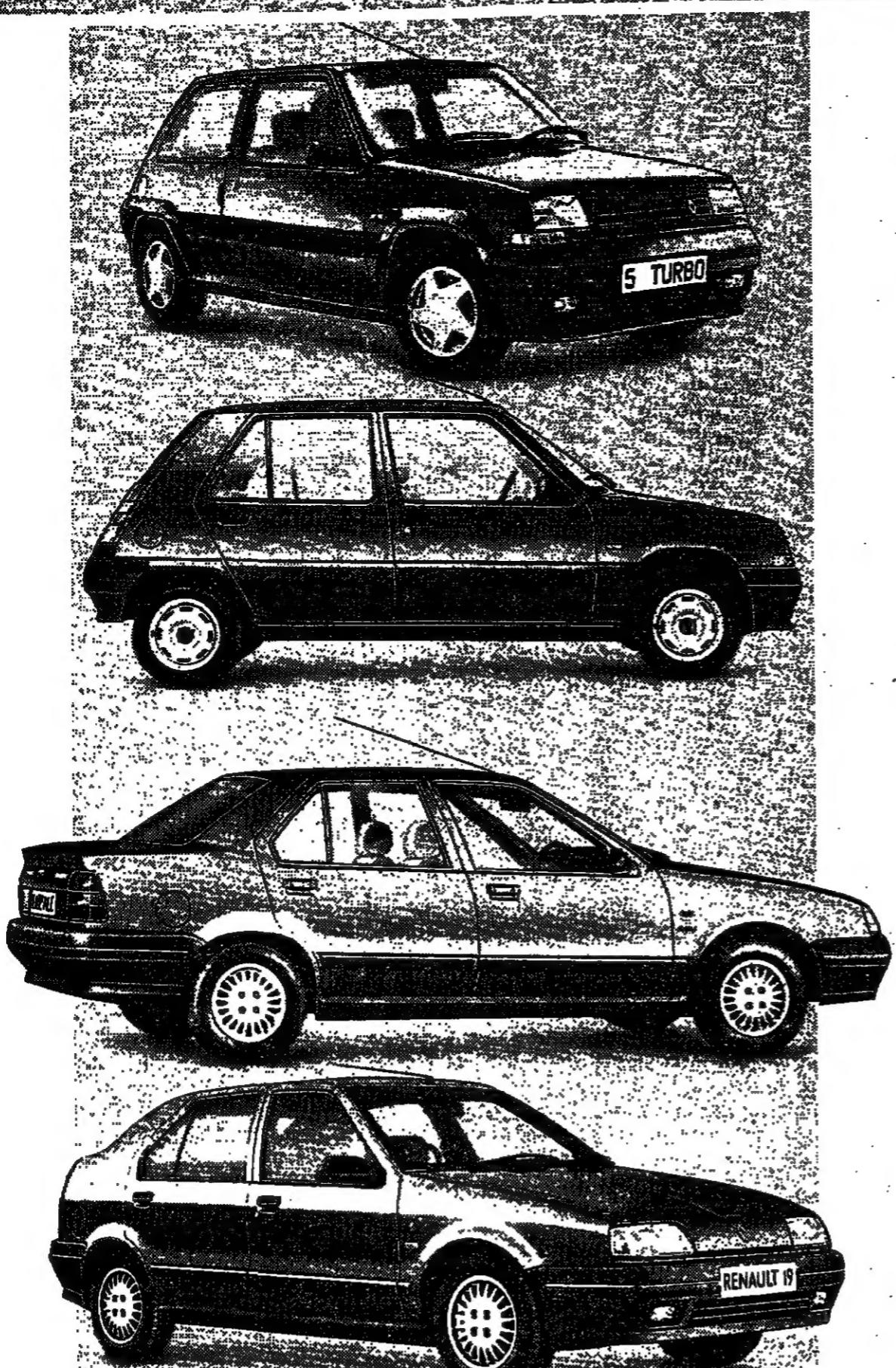
103 Rf5 Bg7 119 Rf5 Bg7

104 Rf5 Bg7 120 Rf5 Bg7

105 Rf5 Bg7 121 Rf5 Bg7

106 Rf5 Bg7 122 Rf5 Bg7

107 Rf5 Bg7 123



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SCHEME	RATE	DETAILS		RENAULT 5 CAMPUS 3 DR	RENAULT 19 PRIMA HATCH 3 DR
		On the road price	£6140.00 ^a	£7150.00	£7150.00
1 Year	0%	Minimum Deposit 10%	£2456.00	£2860.00	
		Max. Repayment Period	12 months	12 months	
		Monthly Payment	£307.00	£357.50	
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	
		Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00	
2 Years	0%	Minimum Deposit 60%	£3684.00	£4290.00	
		Max. Repayment Period	24 months	24 months	
		Monthly Payment	£102.33	£119.17	
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL	
		Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00	
3 Years	6.9% p.a. 13.8% APR	Minimum Deposit	£99.00	£1430.00 (27%)	
		Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months	
		Monthly Payment	£202.54	£191.77	
		Finance Charges	£1250.44	£1183.72	
		Total Credit Price ^b	£7415.44	£8358.72	

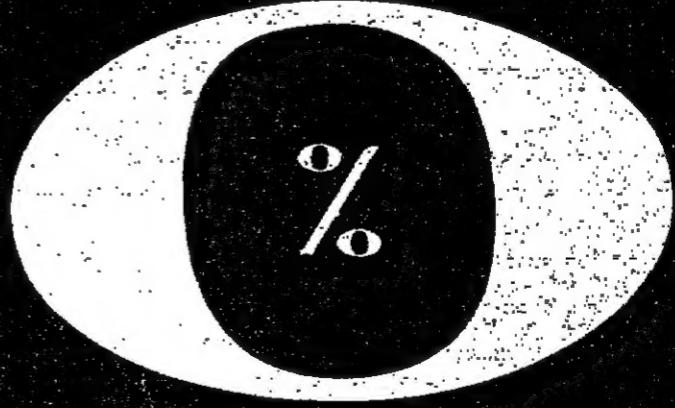
^aIncludes £25 Option Fee

All Renault cars have 12 months unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus a 6 year anti-corrosion warranty. Prices correct at time of going to press, include VAT and Car Tax. ^bPrices on the road price includes free delivery, number plates and 6 months road fund licence, but excludes optional extras and insurance. Offer subject to availability. Renault 19 Finance Services Ltd, NWS House, City Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM5 3AH. *Cars shown, cash prices, inc. est. "on the road" costs; Renault 5 GT Turbo £10,890, Renault 5 Campus 3-dr £6,140, Renault 5 Campus 5-dr £6,480, Renault 19 TXE £11,000, with optional alloy wheels £275, Renault 19 Chamade 3-dr £11,350, with optional alloy wheels £225. **Offer ends 31 December 1990.

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[Just in time]

Double poll tax on second homes yields millions for councils

By RAY CLANCY

COUNCILS are making millions of pounds from charging double poll tax on second homes and empty houses, according to figures released by the government yesterday.

Last night the Labour party said it was a scandal that authorities such as Westminster were making almost £7 million, while others that did not have a high number of properties subject to the standard charge, in most cases double the personal charge, were gaining nothing.

David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman, said the system was a redistribution of income whereby councils in affluent areas with a large number of second homes experiencing few problems with poll tax collection were "enjoying a bonanza", but poorer areas such as inner cities where collection was difficult were not benefiting at all.

Figures for almost every council in England, released by Michael Portillo, the local government minister, in answer to a written parliamentary question from Mr Blunkett, show that the biggest gainer is Conservative-controlled Westminster city council, which is set to collect £6,829,000 from 17,511 properties liable to the standard charge which the authority has decided to levy at double the £195 personal charge.

In London, Camden is set to collect £4,440,000 and Lewisham £2,794,000 from opting for double the personal charge but Haringey, which has one of the highest poll taxes at £508.34, will gain only £688,292 because it has just 677 properties liable to the standard charge. Popular holiday areas with a high number of second homes are also set to collect millions. North Cornwall with 3,594 properties

is liable to the standard charge of £620, gains more than £2 million and Bournemouth gets £2 million from its 3,260 properties. Brighton, however, is one of the few councils that decided to set the standard charge at the same rate as the personal tax and gains just over £1 million from its 2,966 liable properties.

Local authorities gaining nothing from the standard charge because they have no properties liable include the metropolitan boroughs of Knowsley, Dudley, Bradford, Salford and Stockport. East Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Burnley, Derby and Chesterfield district councils are also among those gaining nothing.

"Many Tory councils are doing well out of the standard charge. It is a scandal that an authority like Westminster benefits by almost £7 million when many poorer inner-city councils, who have the most difficulties collecting the tax receive little or no income under this provision," Mr Blunkett said.

Although his own constituency in Sheffield is set to gain almost £5 million, Mr Blunkett said that the difficulties the city council was experiencing in collecting the poll tax meant that income was vital in helping to even things out and other Labour-controlled authorities such as Camden were in a similar position.

Westminster city council said last night that it was right that authorities should have discretion over the standard charge. "The department of the environment gave us the opportunity to decide how much to charge and Westminster along with the majority of councils decided to levy it at double the personal level."

The government is concerned about the amount of money being made by coun-

Letters, page 15

Villagers win fight against the sea

A community on the North Sea has won a fight to save itself from erosion, reports Peter Davenport

ALONG the drive of Keith and Jean Blackman's grade two listed farmhouse in the village of Mappleton on the Holderness coast, a series of posts bearing dates and measurements mark a losing battle with the North Sea.

The department said, however, that "any increase in revenue relating to the standard charge could mean a reduction in the level of grant which in turn could mean that local authorities would make up any loss by resorting to the maximum standard charge".

People who pay their community charge on time could be rewarded with cheaper services, the London borough of Tower Hamlets said.

Halfway through the financial year 26.35 per cent of the council's £123,000 charge payers have not made any contribution.



Too late: Geoffrey Porter outside his clifftop house, which a sea defence scheme has come too late to save

100 villagers, who have campaigned to save their community, learned that their efforts have paid off. The government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has approved a £2 million scheme to build a sea defence wall to protect Mappleton.

Mrs Blackman, aged 51, a nurse, and her husband, a former haulage contractor, government no longer met 100 per cent of the cost, leaving local authorities to make contributions. Margaret Westoby, clerk to the parish council, said: "It virtually means that the village was doomed."

The Mappleton protection, 70 per cent funded by central government, will in-

volve shipping 55,000 tons of rock from Scandinavia for a 420 yard defensive wall. Researchers, funded by Humberside county council, are seeking ways to protect the wider Holderness coast. Underwater barriers are being considered as a cheaper alternative to walls that would cost £250 million.

Newton urged to increase benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SOCIAL security benefits should be increased as soon as possible to compensate for exceptional increases in water rates, the government's advisers on benefits said yesterday.

The social security advisory committee is urging Tony Newton, the social security secretary, to increase income support because of planned rises in water charges which, in some cases, will double in two years. Peter Barclay, the committee chairman, said yesterday: "I have been worried for some time about the effect on income

£220,000 damages overturned

Three appeal court judges yesterday overturned a £220,000 damages award to Pauline Hughes of Clayhall, northeast London, who sued for alleged negligent treatment at Whipple Cross hospital, Leytonstone, northeast London, after the death of her husband, William, in 1984.

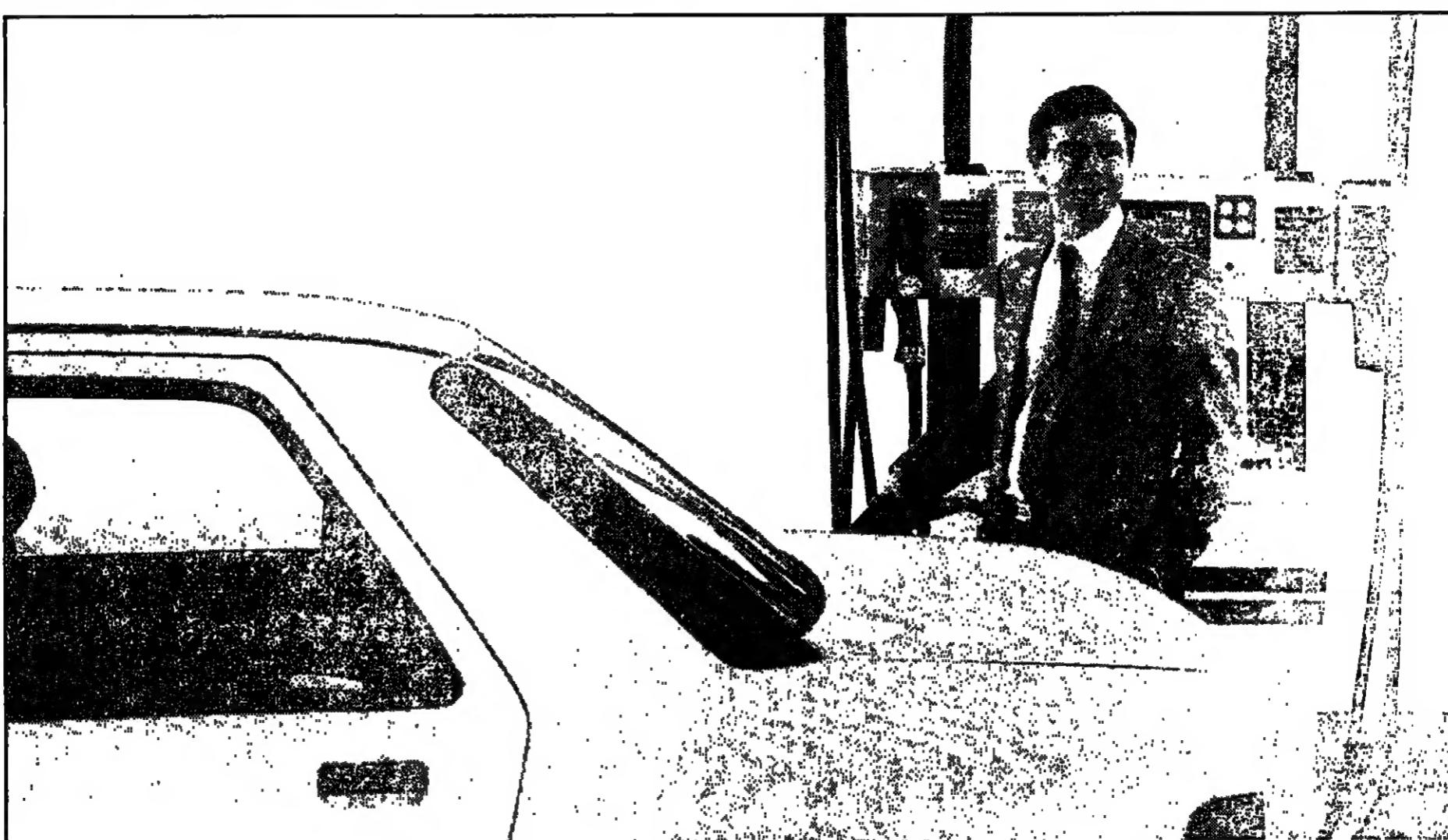
An appeal was allowed against a High Court ruling that the surgical team took an "avoidable risk" in discharging Mrs Hughes while he was unfit.

Plot charge
Pearse Gerard McAuley, aged 25, of Co Tyrone, and Nessa Quinn, aged 28, of Limerick, Republic of Ireland, were yesterday further remanded in custody until November 8 by the Old Bailey magistrates' court in London, accused of conspiring to murder Sir Charles Tidbury, the former Whitbread chairman.

Hospital saved
ONE of Britain's oldest maternity hospitals, Queen Charlotte's, has been saved by a fall in property prices. Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Special Health Authority is to keep the west London site because the valuation is down from £18.75 million in 1987 to £6.5 million this month.

RSI 'ignored'
Employers are "burying their heads in the sand" over the growing problem of repetitive strain injury (RSI) at work, John Rimington, director general of the Health and Safety Executive, said yesterday at the launch of guidelines to help managers to design user-friendly workplaces.

Talks in Brazil
Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, will open the first Anglo-Brazilian environmental conference during a visit to Brazil next week, and visit a climate research project in Amazonia.



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J.P. C. 1990

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He's green. He's a vegetarian vampire. And he's looked after by his nanny. A bizarre combination. Even for a duck.

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Does all this sound like a lot of trouble to go to for a children's programme?

It should do, because at Thames we take making programmes for children as seriously as making programmes for adults.

This year, as every year for the last twenty two, our

producers have put together a diverse range of

programmes for all ages of children.

Programmes like 'Spatz', a teenage comedy set in a hamburger bar, 'OWL TV' a wildlife series that manages to be educational without remotely looking or sounding like it, and the adventures of 'T-Bag' the witch portrayed by Georgina Hale.

(Her arch-rival Vanity Bag is played by none other than Glenda Jackson.)

Older viewers who have grown up with Thames TV will be pleased to note that alongside these new and innovative programmes they can still find perennial favourites like 'Sooty' and 'Rainbow'.

There will also be more major Thames films made especially for children.

These will include adaptations of Rosemary Sutcliff's Viking romance 'The Sea Dragon' and R. D. Blackmore's classic love-story 'Lorna Doone' and an animated Russian folk-tale, 'The Fool of the World and The Flying Ship', narrated by David Suchet.

Like last year's Roald Dahl double-bill 'Danny the Champion of the World' and 'The BFG', these

Grown-ups just like
the silly jokes.

Thames' children's programmes can be enjoyed by children and adults together.

Certainly, our programmes have won some serious awards at major television festivals all over the world.

The Prix Jeunesse in Munich, for example, the Prix Danube in Bratislava, the Chicago Children's TV Festival and the Prix Europa in Strasbourg.

Proof, if any were needed, that adults everywhere

want their children to have a rich and varied television diet.

Even one that includes vegetarian duck.

THAMES A TALENT FOR TELEVISION



HEALTH

'No fault' cash for victims rejected

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR proposals that would ensure swift and automatic compensation for victims of medical accidents such as haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus were rejected by the government yesterday.

Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, said that a system of no-fault compensation would end the "cruel lottery" under which a few people secured large sums after proving negligence but most got nothing. Lengthy and expensive legal cases would become a thing of the past.

Ms Harman's proposals, published in a bill presented to the Commons yesterday, coincide with pressure on ministers to reach an out-of-court settlement in the case brought on behalf of 1,300 haemophiliacs infected by contaminated blood products.

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said that, although no-fault schemes could look attractive, they posed serious problems. They would be of little help in the present case.

Mr Clarke said that most such schemes aimed to make small payments to large numbers of people rather than large amounts to victims of negligence. In New Zealand, for instance, the £14,500 paid to HIV-infected haemophiliacs was much less than the payments that the government has made to the Macfarlane trust. Drawing on a fund of £34 million, it has made ex-gratia payments of at least £20,000 to each of the British haemophiliacs, the health department said yesterday.

Ms Harman hopes that her bill will be taken up by an MP finishing high in the ballot for private members' bills due before Christmas.

Broadcasters 'at risk from right-wing loonies'

By PETER MULLIGAN

BROADCASTERS ran the risk of being taken to court by "right-wing loonies" as a result of the impartiality amendment to the Broadcasting Bill, Roy Hattersley told the Commons yesterday.

The shadow home secretary said that it would intimidate broadcasters and result in programmes such as *Death on the Rock*, the documentary about the killing of three IRA members in Gibraltar, not being made.

Lord Wyatt of Wexford, the independent peer, came under fierce attack from both sides of the Commons as the originator of the amendment, which is designed to ensure impartiality over controversial issues on independent television.

Mr Hattersley said Lord Wyatt had a paranoia about broadcasting and had convinced the prime minister to expose independent television companies to the threat of continual litigation to make controversial programmes.

Opposing the amendment, which calls for impartiality on "major matters", he said during consideration of Lords amendments to the bill that the minister in charge, David Mellor, had not the slightest enthusiasm for the amendment. Lord Wyatt was the begetter.

He predicted that "right-wing loonies" would take broadcasters to court, perhaps frivolously, with the intention of making a point rather than winning a case. Programme makers would, as a result, choose to broadcast on the bland and the anodyne.

The Freedom Association, Mr Hattersley said, took on such cases and television companies were rightly apprehensive about the Media Monitoring Unit.

He pledged that a Labour government would repeal the amendment which, he said, was repressive and would lead to a reduction in high quality broadcasting in tolerance, freedom and in the sort of values Labour wanted to see.

The government, he said, was telling the Independent Television Commission — which is to introduce a code of practice based on guidelines in the amendment — the nature, the provision, the scope and in some cases the contents of the code.

Julian Critchley, Tory MP for Aldershot, said that the amendment had come about because of the efforts of Lord Wyatt and 100 Conservative MPs who he characterised, as prolonged laughter, as "one sage and 100 onions".

The peer who has a column in the *News of the World* entitled "The Voice of Reason", had as many views as a dog has fleas, Mr Critchley said. It was suitable that he was devoting his remaining energies to emasculating his media rivals.

However, Mr Mellor, the arts minister, urged support for the amendment. Parliament had a right and a duty to insist on due impartiality on matters of political and industrial controversy. He emphasised that the rules themselves would be drawn up by the commission.

He denied that the amendment was "a lawyer's picnic", an allegation made by the solicitor and independent peer, Lord Goodman. So long as the code was drawn up reasonably, there was no scope for judicial intervention or extensive litigation.

He said: "It would be extremely difficult for a judge to say that it was wholly unreasonable for the commission to have determined whether it was proper to do certain things when the statute indicates that that is their discretion."

Robert MacLennan, for the Liberal Democrats, said that, although tens of millions of people watched programmes about controversial subjects, few complaints were made or upheld.

Every broadcasting company had expressed grave reservations about what was proposed. There would be uncertainty and many court cases.

Mr Mellor said that the law already required impartiality and there had not been hundreds of court cases over the past 40 years. He saw no reason to expect hundreds of court cases over the next 40.

Mr MacLennan said that companies would be frightened to make controversial programmes if there was a danger of being taken to court by such organisations as the Freedom Association and other well-heeled groups.

The balance of legal opinion was with Lord Goodman, who said last week that the proposal would lead to a legal upset.

Graham Riddick, Conservative MP for Colne Valley, said that the broadcasters had only themselves to blame. The amendments were introduced in frustration at the arrogance of a minority of broadcasters in independent television and the BBC.

He rejected claims that the amendment to the Bill stemmed from pressure from right-wing groups.

The law at present required impartiality and it had been flouted. The IBA had proved unable or unwilling to enforce its own rules.

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby and a broadcaster on Sky television, asked Mr Riddick to name the programme makers he was accusing.

Mr Riddick replied: "I have no intention of starting to name lots of names." But one example of the sort of thing he was talking about was a radio programme, *Start the Week*.

For so long as broadcasting played an integral role in the British way of life, due impartiality would be a due component of television.

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 1990

THE GULF

Prime minister embarrassed by Heath role

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher was clearly embarrassed in the Commons yesterday by the role of Edward Heath in securing the release of hostages from Iraq.

Mr Heath, who last night briefed Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on his trip to Baghdad, was cheered by Labour MPs when he arrived in the Commons for prime minister's question time. When Neil Kinnock invited Mrs Thatcher to applaud her Tory predecessor's efforts, MPs felt that her tribute stopped well short of warmth.

Mrs Thatcher was first invited to welcome the return of the hostages by the Tory MP Michael Brown. She replied: "Of course we are glad to see some more hostages home and particularly glad for them and their families. Their return brings the total number of British nationals who have come back from Iraq and Kuwait, so far, to 900."

"We are particularly concerned about those who are left — some 1,400 — who have been taken totally contrary to international law," she said.

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Primary schools will be allowed to close for one extra day in the spring term next year for teachers to train in assessing seven-year-olds and developing policies for reporting the results to parents, John MacGregor, education secretary, announced in a Commons written reply.

Gulf news, page 10



MELLOR: amendment is not "a lawyer's picnic"

Kinnock visits Cyprus troops

Neil Kinnock is to visit British forces in Cyprus today. He will go to bases at Episkopi, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, and in the evening attend a dinner given in his honour by President George Vassiliou.

The Labour leader will have informal talks with Mr Vassiliou and other political leaders, and return to London on Monday.

Offshore trust enquiry

The government is looking into claims that offshore trusts are being used for tax avoidance. Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, told MPs he was replying to John Smith, Labour shadow chancellor, who said it was time that "tax dodges" by a wealthy minority were ended.

Home Office nurseries

The Home Office is to provide day nurseries, for payment, for children of its staff at Croydon and Bootle and is considering similar provision for central London staff jointly with other ministries. David Waddington, home secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

Day's break for teachers

Primary schools will be allowed to close for one extra day in the spring term next year for teachers to train in assessing seven-year-olds and developing policies for reporting the results to parents, John MacGregor, education secretary, announced in a Commons written reply.

Parliament next week

The present session of Parliament, which began on November 21 last year, will end with prorogation on Thursday and the new session will be opened by the Queen on Wednesday, November 2.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday and Tuesday: Lords amendments to Environmental Protection bill.

Wednesday: Debate on noise abatement and the environment.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

CONFERENCE

Plaid pledges 'no poll deals'

WELSH Nationalists will fight all 38 seats in Wales and not make any general election pact with a leading party figure said yesterday.

Plaid Cymru, with just three MPs in its North Wales heartland, is also trying to widen its appeal in the build-up to the next general election by seeking a stronger role for Wales in the European Community. It wants a second chamber in the European parliament, based on regional representation.

Mr Wigley criticised Neil Kinnock for failing to offer Wales a parliament of the same status as he is offering Scotland if Labour takes power. "Because of Neil Kinnock's hang-ups about Wales", he said, "we are treated as second-class citizens and fobbed off with an all-Wales county council."

BRADFORD NORTH

The race is on, but only just

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS CAMPAIGNING in the Bradford North by-election enters its second week, Labour has been wondering about the whereabouts of its opponents.

An unmistakable hangover from last week's surprise result at Eastbourne has seriously affected the response of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats to the challenge under way in West Yorkshire.

Demoralised by the loss of a safe seat in southern England, the Conservatives' campaign launch was re-worked for the absence of a government minister and yesterday the Liberal Democrats formally opened their effort after hurriedly putting together a team.

The evident difficulties facing its two main opponents has led some Labour strategists to suspect that the Tories and Liberal Democrats have written off their chances.

Today, Kenneth Baker will try inject some zest into Conservative campaigning in the wake of the auspicious launch at which a highly nervous candidate spent much of the time highlighting her local roots and trying to squash talk of an Eastbourne factor.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have chosen local councillors as their candidates, forcing the Conservative, Jo Atkin, into proclaiming defensively that, although she is a teacher in Oxfordshire, nobody should doubt her credentials as a "girl who is Bradford born and bred".

Later, when explaining that the Eastbourne defeat was a "one-off", Miss Atkin dried up in mid-sentence, spluttering "Is that what we



WARD: anxious to maintain Eastbourne momentum

intended to say?" She insisted that she had wanted the local Tory leader at her side for the launch, but party workers criticised the absence of government ministers.

The impression that all is not well with her campaign was compounded when Miss Atkin went canvassing, spent rather too much time talking to teenagers who could not vote and had no campaign leaflets to give to anyone.

The Liberal Democrats, anxious to maintain the momentum of Eastbourne, are exploiting disillusion with the government by highlighting their candidate's record on the local council and by emphasising to electors that a vote in a by-election does not determine the formation of a government.

That message was delivered time and time again as David Ward canvassed a small estate of two-car homes in the north of the constituency. At door after door in Meadowcroft Close, traditional Tory voters told him that they were considering deserting the party.

Given the economic difficulties facing the government, anything other than a handsome victory for Terry Rooney would be a heavy blow to party morale. Stretching from the city centre to villages on the outskirts, there is much fertile territory for Labour.

The constituency has an Asian population of 11,000, inner-city areas affected by high unemployment, overcrowding and poor housing.

Traditionally the 7,500 Muslim vote has gone to Labour, but such loyalty can no longer be taken for granted.

Within the Muslim community there is a growing feeling that Labour has taken their vote for granted. Labour's slim majority has made leading figures in the Muslim community aware that they are in a position to exact a number of promises from the party. In private, key Muslims in the city are highly critical of Labour's attitudes towards their demand for denominational state schools and also about the party's failure to select a Muslim as a candidate for any safe Labour seat at the next general election.

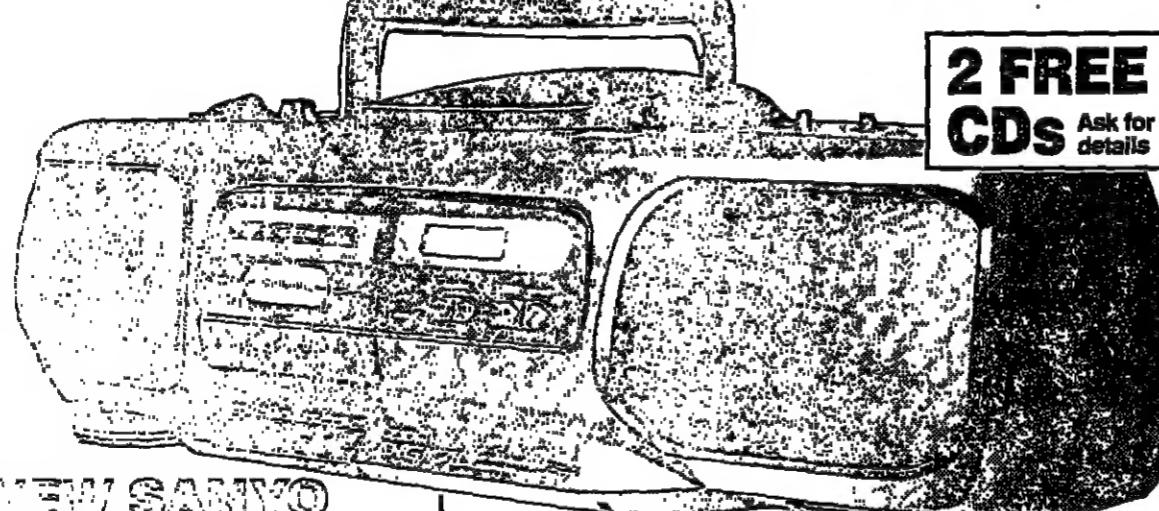
Labour is trying to ensure that the Muslim vote remains loyal by holding a series of meetings with Asian community leaders before polling day on November 8. However, the chances of the Islamic Party of Britain, standing in its first parliamentary by-election, doing well are dismissed by Muslim leaders.

The party, whose candidate is white and from Sheffield, is handicapped by being seen as an outside force without roots in community.

The candidates are: Mr Rooney (Lab), Miss Atkin (C), Mr Ward (Lib Dem), Mike Knott (Green), Noel Nowoselski (Lib), David Pidcock (Islamic party), Robert Tenney (National Front), Wild Willie Beckett (Loony Party).

General election: P Wall (Lab), 21,009; G Lawler (C), 19,376; A Berkeley (SDP-All), 8,656. Lab maj: 1,633.

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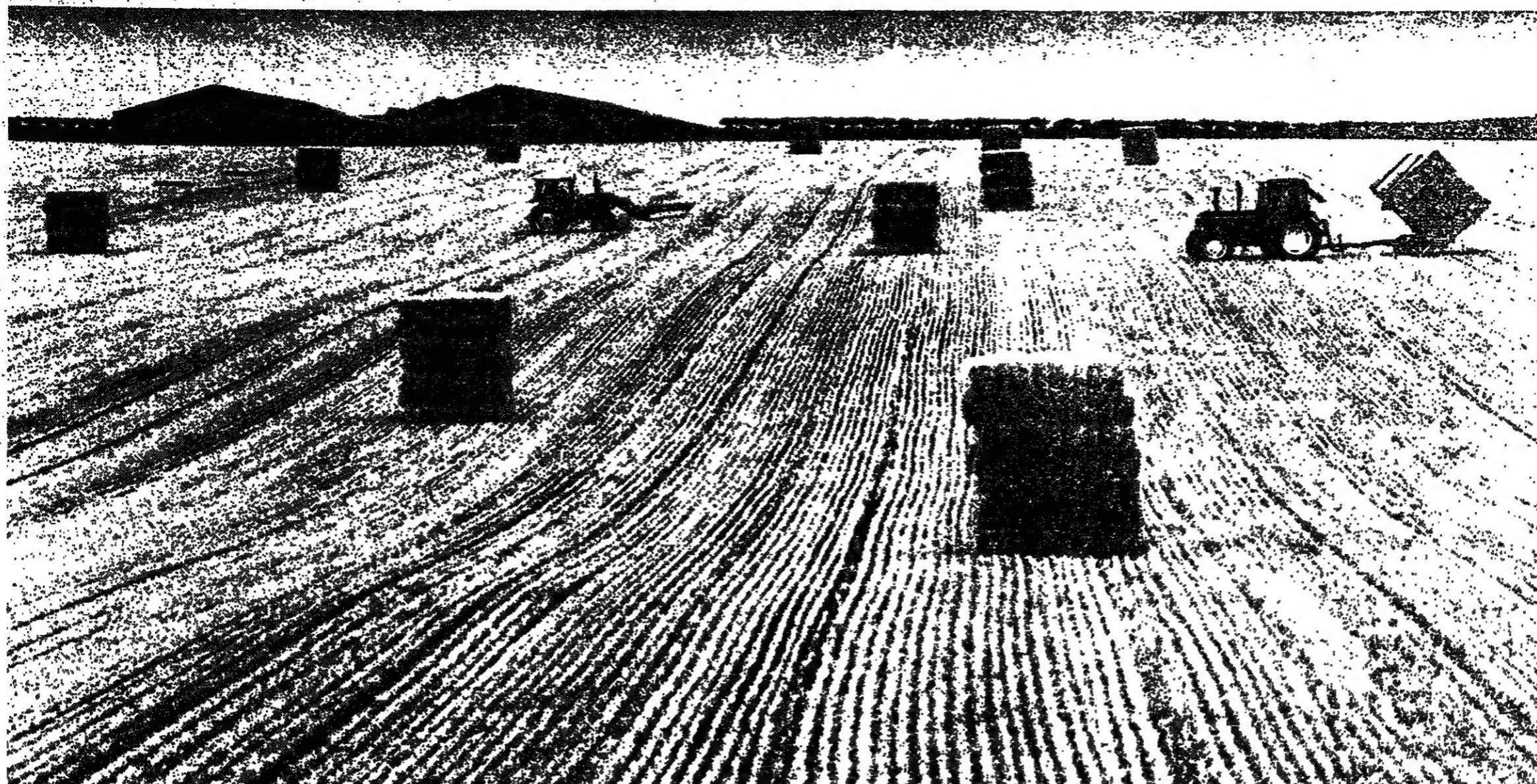
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Baling straw in Northumberland, as seen from the 13.30 Edinburgh to Kings Cross.



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working. If Isaac Newton
could be inspired by one
apple tree, just imagine
what a whole country side
could do for your ideas.**

France at pains to reassure allies of firmness over Iraq

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

WITH the French hostages in Iraq expected to be flown home over the weekend, the government remains adamant that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq cannot expect any weakening of France's commitment to the Western alliance confronting him.

Repeated official assurances that there were no negotiations with Baghdad before or during the developments that led to President Saddam's unilateral decision to release some 300 French citizens have now given way to claims that firmness in Paris finally convinced the Iraqi leader that there would be no diplomatic pay-off.

According to Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, the expected liberation of the hostages will have no effect on government policy in the Gulf, which stays the same "from one day to the next". M Dumas also emphasised that there would be no reduction in the French military presence in the region, pointing out that new combat units were dispatched to Saudi Arabia earlier this week.

Daniel Bernard, the chief

spokesman for the Quai d'Orsay, was also at pains yesterday to stress that France had assured its allies that the return of the hostages will not dilute French support for the alliance against President Saddam. He reported that M Dumas had personally telephoned his counterparts in Britain, the United States and Germany to relay this message, though in M Bernard's estimation "there was no need to give assurances because there are no doubts in this respect".

M Bernard told reporters that there was no foundation for rumours that the head of the French Red Cross, Georges Dufoix, a former junior minister in the present government, would travel to Baghdad and return with the hostages. He indicated that the question of whether a "personality" would be sent to represent France at the handover had not yet been resolved; nor had it been decided whether they would be flown home in a French or Iraqi aircraft, though the latter appears the most likely possibility.

Meanwhile, the Elysée Palace

has declined to comment officially on a front-page report in yesterday's *International Herald Tribune* which claimed that President Mitterrand was convinced a shooting war will soon break out in the Gulf. The newspaper said it had learnt that in discussions which took place before Iraq announced the hostage release, M Mitterrand talked about hostilities beginning between now and the first week of November.

The report also claimed that M Mitterrand had said that the likely outbreak of war effectively removed any hesitation about allowing French units to co-operate with US forces on the battlefield. A presidential aide was quoted as arguing that it would be criminally foolish to endanger lives by pretending that 5,000 French troops could function independently of the command structure behind the 200,000-strong US presence.

Recalling France's previous sensitivity on the issue, specifically the fear of being drawn into war by an isolated clash, the newspaper reported that French officers had been invited to accompany US crews on flights over the Gulf by Awacs planes gathering electronic intelligence about Iraq's military dispositions. The offer was said to have been made during last week's visit to Paris by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, who had intensive discussions with French officials.

In a parallel report yesterday the well-informed weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, maintained that M Mitterrand had recently become convinced that President Bush was preparing for military intervention in an attempt to offset his administration's growing unpopularity at home before the congressional elections in the first week of November. The Elysée Palace had nothing to say about this either.

• BAGHDAD: Two Northern Irishmen, one of whom was freed after the personal intervention of President Saddam, returned home yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Michael Sands, aged 31, a civil engineer from County Down left the Iraqi capital after President Saddam paid a surprise visit to the new presidential palace. He was so impressed by the work that he ordered Mr Sands to be rewarded.

One of the presidential aides suggested half-jokingly that what Mr Sands would like most was permission to return home. The Iraqi leader agreed.

Mr Sands, who works for the Northern Irish construction company, Mivan Overseas Limited, completed his two-year contract in Iraq six months ago, but volunteered to stay on in Baghdad to complete the project. Another 30 Britons working on the palace have also been told that they can go home when their contracts expire.

Nick Drury, a second Briton, aged 19, also from County Down, was on the same flight out of Baghdad after his name was put forward to the Iraqi authorities as a deserving case by Edward Heath.

Mr Drury was on holiday from Stirling University, visiting his father in Baghdad, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and he was trapped along with other British citizens.

Uncertainty still surrounds the exact number of Palestinians killed during the worst single day of violence in Jerusalem since 1967. Data published yesterday by the east Jerusalem-based Palestine Human Rights Information Centre suggested that 18 people were killed, 17 of them in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa mosque. Earlier reports suggested that as many as 21 Palestinians had been shot dead.

Faisal Husseini, a prominent Palestinian nationalist, said yesterday the latest security council resolution did not go far enough. "The international community is spoiling Israel," he said at a press conference in east Jerusalem, held a day after his release on bail from prison. He was arrested on the day of the killings and charged with inciting the riots.

Failure to accept the UN mission, Mr Husseini said, would convince Palestinians that Israel was beyond international authority. Left in what he described as "a jungle", Palestinians would behave accordingly, he said.

While Mr Cheney emphasised that the continued military build-

Israel determined not to allow UN killings enquiry

From PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI leaders yesterday rejected Wednesday's United Nations Security Council resolution urging Israel to accept the UN mission to investigate the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem earlier this month.

There was also dismay in Jerusalem that, for the second time in two weeks, the United States has refrained from vetoing a resolution critical of Israel.

"We regret this vote at the UN, which will not help the situation," said Avi Pazner, spokesman for Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. "We are faced here with a question of principle, the principle of sovereignty over our capital. This is a question on which no compromise is possible," he said.

The international community has yet to recognise Israeli sovereignty over Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel conquered in 1967.

Yossi Ben Aharon, the director-general of the prime minister's office, described American support for the resolution as "a misjudgement on the part of... our great friend the United States".

Mr Pazner said Washington had

Britain's envoys set for return to Iran

By ANDREW McEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British Embassy in Tehran is to reopen on Sunday with a staff of five after the Anglo-Iranian agreement a month ago to renew diplomatic relations.

Hopes that this might lead to a quick improvement in relations faded, however, when both the Foreign Office and the London bureau chief of the Iranian News Agency showed marked caution over the announcement.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to set a timetable for building up the staff to the expected level of 16 diplomats, saying that this would depend on "developments in the relationship". The development Britain wants are the use of Iran's influence to secure the release of British hostages in Beirut, and the freeing of Roger Cooper, the British businessman held in Tehran.

Britain is no longer linking improvements to the dropping of the *fawja* against the author Salman Rushdie, partly because it is unlikely to happen and partly because the Iranian government has reiterated that it will not interfere in other countries' affairs. The British government feels that Tehran has implicitly distanced itself from the edict.

Hamid Houshangi, bureau chief of the official news agency, said he did not expect changes in the relationship in the next six months. Iran would match the British move by sending five diplomats to London.

He said that the choice of David Reddaway to lead the British diplomats would not be well received in Tehran, because he was considered too close to the old regime. Mr Reddaway, a Persian speaker with an Iranian wife, served in Tehran in 1978 when the Shah was still in power.

Whitehall sources commented that his appointment could be viewed in a favourable light in that it was Mr Reddaway who recommended a resumption of normal relations with Tehran in 1988.

The other four diplomats being sent to Tehran were named as David Hawkes, Philip Ambrose, Susan Farren and John Cowe. They will fly out tomorrow.

Reports in the Israeli press suggest that blame for the incident will be placed on Israel's police chief, Yaakov Terzer, the head of the southern district, Commander Rahamim Comfort, and Jerusalem's police chief, Deputy Commander Arye Bibi.

UP TO 100,000 more US servicemen, including over 50,000 men being withdrawn from Europe and more armoured divisions, could be sent to the Gulf region, bringing the total to well over 300,000, Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said yesterday.

With 430,000 Iraqi troops now dug in in Kuwait and neighbouring areas of Iraq, US military commanders have told Mr Cheney that a US strength of that order would be required for a military offensive to recapture the emirate. Mr Cheney also said that President Saddam Hussein could lash out at Israel or Saudi oilfields before his military capabilities were eroded by lack of spare parts.

While Mr Cheney emphasised that the continued military build-



Desert bound: nurses of the 33rd Field Hospital, 7th Armoured Brigade, in Saudi Arabia ready to join British forces in the desert — Lieutenant Michelle Horridge, top left, Major Patricia Conway, top right, Private Christine Mellish, bottom left, and Captain Jo Edwards.

Republicans count the cost as budget battle subsides

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S budget problems appeared almost to be over yesterday. The nation prepared to have a collective sigh of relief, and Democrats quietly — for fear of causing a last-minute upset — began to revel in what they perceived as victory. But for a battered President Bush and his divided Republican Party, the political damage has been, and will continue to be, acute.

Late on Wednesday, with another government shutdown looming and a total collapse of negotiations quite possible, congressional leaders, the White House and rank-and-file Democrats finally achieved consensus on how to raise the taxes of

raise taxes, congressional leaders

were counting on the Democratic majority to ram the package through, bringing to an end five miserable months of protracted partisan wrangling and allowing Congressmen to return at last to their districts before the November 6 elections. Not since the second world war has Congress remained in session so close to election day.

On Wednesday morning, Mr Bush had been pressed to "pull the plug" on the entire process by some of his close advisers and cabinet members who argued that he had given away too much. Mr Bush, backed by James Baker, the Secretary of State, demurred, aware of the damage such a step would inflict on an already parlous economy and on his efforts to maintain a strong international coalition against Iraq.

The breakthrough came when the Democrats dropped their insistence on a millionaires' tax, accepting instead a rise from 28 to 31 per cent in the marginal income tax paid by the very wealthy, a limit on their deductions, and phasing out their personal exemptions. With increased taxes on alcohol, tobacco, petrol and luxury items, this will raise an extra \$140 billion over five years.

"We haven't won everything, but we made it clear where we stand," said Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat congressional spokesman.

A *Wall Street Journal* poll yesterday made shocking reading for the Republicans in advance of the November 6 congressional elections. Forty per cent of respondents said they would vote for a Democrat and 31 per cent for a Republican; in the spring, that same question gave the Republicans a one-point advantage.

Cheney hints at 100,000 more US troops for Gulf

By MARTIN FLETCHER

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In the Gulf, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the commander of the British troops, said refining crude oil was becoming "more of a problem" for the Iraqis.

It was necessary to keep options open, the fact that he appeared to speak about it on four different television shows suggested that he was stepping up pressure on the Iraqi president, who has been putting out diplomatic feelers recently.

William Webster, the CIA director, said that there were some "encouraging" signs of discontent within the Iraqi military. There was "no doubt" that international sanctions were beginning to take a toll. They had cut off 98 per cent of Iraq's oil exports and 90 per cent of its imports.

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With government troops killed in the battle at the northeastern garrison town of Gebel.

Official Rwanda radio monitored here said five lorries were destroyed and several anti-aircraft guns captured during the battle. Ten government soldiers were counted dead and 15 seriously wounded. The radio said that the battle started when the rebels were found hiding in bush near the garrison.

Australian apology

Melbourne — The Australian Broadcasting Corporation apologised to Nelson Mandela, the deputy ANC leader, for involving him in a telephone link-up with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the rival black leader, which led to death threats against the ABC. Official Rwanda radio monitored here said five lorries were destroyed and several anti-aircraft guns captured during the battle. Ten government soldiers were counted dead and 15 seriously wounded. The radio said that the battle started when the rebels were found hiding in bush near the garrison.

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Polls point to Labour loss in New Zealand

Wellington — New Zealanders go to the polls tomorrow with all the indicators pointing to a change of government and the country's fourth prime minister in 15 months (*Richard Long* writes).

James Brendan Bolger, aged 55, the farmer son of Irish immigrants, is expected to lead the National Party to an easy win over a Labour government which appears in despair and dismay.

Opinion polls have indicated a landslide win for the National Party, which has been in opposition for six years, but the picture is confused by a large undecided electorate.

Michael Moore, aged 41, who was appointed prime minister eight weeks ago in an attempt to turn round the opinion polls, has run a month-long, sometimes zany campaign of "new initiatives".

But political experts suggest that, while Mr Moore might have reduced the extent of the Labour rout, he is unlikely to hold on to power. According to opinion polls, Mr Moore's own Christchurch seat is in danger, along with seats held by a string of his cabinet colleagues.

Mr Moore took over the leadership when the cabinet persuaded Geoffrey Palmer to stand aside because of his and the party's poor poll ratings.

Shopping list

Madrid — President Gorbachev arrives in Spain today hoping to sign agreements for the purchase of \$1 billion worth of Spanish products to ease Soviet shortages of consumer goods with the aid of low-interest loans from German banks. Mr Gorbachev is also expected to enlist the support of the prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, to secure aid from the European Community to help make the switch to a market economy in the Soviet Union.

Monks' boycott

Bangkok — Defying disciplinary raids made by the army on Burmese monasteries earlier this week, 400 Buddhist monks in Bangkok have refused to conduct regular services for military personnel and rejected the alms they offered. Bangkok residents said troops were later deployed at the scene of the incident in a monastery at Insein on the northern outskirts of the capital. The religious boycott of military personnel began two months ago.

Colony talks end

Hong Kong — China and Hong Kong have ended 10 days of talks on a multi-billion-pound port and airport complex for the colony. China has strong reservations about the £2.27 billion cost and has refused to back the project outright. Hong Kong maintains that the new complex is vital to the territory's prosperity. After China resumes sovereignty, the talks were in private but were said to have been "useful, candid and constructive". (Reuters)

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Blind eye for car rackets that earn black market dollars

NEAR East Berlin's Schönefeld airport, there used to be a capitalist stockade. For a small entrance fee you left the communist state behind and entered a free market — for cars. Crippled Trabants, coughing Wartburgs, belching Skodas, the whole sanatorium of the East European car industry was up for private sale.

Now Western car manufacturers are moving into the East and, it seems, every city suburb has its car market, full of honest Heinis selling Mercedes. In so far as East Europe's capitalist revolution means whitewashing black or quasi-legal markets, the car industry is well positioned.

Communist states were unable to keep pace with the demand for passenger cars. Their factories churned out Polish Fiat or Soviet Zshiguli or whatever the local brand, and gave priority to export

In the final extracts from his book, *The Hard Road to the Market*, Roger Boyes examines car marts, the only capitalist enclaves in the East. He charts this black market's transformation into a free market

sales, then to the privileged communists, and finally released the rest on the hungry domestic market. It was common to wait three years for a new, if imperfectly produced, local car. The communist elite could jump the queue with special coupons and promptly created a black market. Many senior ministers living in pleasant retirement, enriched themselves this way.

To buy a car quickly the ordinary citizen had to go to the open-air free markets which hovered, and hover still, in a zone that



horse would be inspected, and the sale is completed by nightfall. In this strange market, second-hand cars retain their value for five years or more.

Now the prices of domestically produced cars are going up and up, so that there is barely a difference between the official and the free market prices. For the first time in 40 years a Pole can go to an authorised car shop, put down his money and drive away with the vehicle of his choice. For a Pole, the price is high — £2,500 or more for an old-fashioned Polonez sa-

loon car. But it is still cheaper than importing, since the Polish government, in a piece of blatant protectionism, has slapped a 36 per cent tax on imported vehicles.

Logically the formerly free markets, those odd cases of capitalism, should be withering away since official prices are now at near-market levels. Instead they are thriving — and turning blacker. A big East-West racket is underway. In the communist days a typical seller on the free market had worked in West Berlin as a waiter for three months (illegally, of course) and used his savings to buy a clapped-out Opel. This would be treated to a fresh coat of paint and sold quickly at a 400 per cent mark-up.

Today the typical big-time dealer is selling smart BMWs that have been stolen in Scandinavia or West Germany. The turnover is

so rapid — a Mercedes Turbo priced at about £35,000 was sold within the hour last week — that Western criminals are using the markets to launder dirty money. Yet there can be no question of a committed free-market government moving in to clean up the stables. Any market that soaks up inflation-prone dollars and keeps large wads of black-market dollars in circulation has to be tolerated.

Unfortunately, all this capitalism is not making car production more efficient. Only trading has become smoother. This is a general weakness of the market revolutions in Eastern Europe: buying and selling has been freed from the old bureaucratic harness, but industrial production is as lethargic as ever. The Polish car industry, which turns out 250,000 vehicles a year, is to start producing a new passenger car with the

help of Fiat from next year, and the main Warsaw FSO factory will produce a modernised version of the Fiat Tipo. But it has taken several years to reach this point.

The workers, sick of bad management, want to engineer a worker buy-out — that is, privatising the company and entrusting the workers with big chunks of stock. The workers are impressed with the success of the British National Freight Corporation. But probe the workers, attend their long emergency meetings, and it is plain that they have only one motive for wanting to buy into their company: to hang on to jobs and hold up plant closures. That perhaps is not the right start to the privatisation revolution.

The Hard Road to Market, is published by Sceptre and Warburg, on October 29.

Thatcher may cite Delors report to back her case in economic union row

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher appears to have won the first round of the argument over the timing of the second stage of economic and monetary union ahead of the European summit which opens in Rome tomorrow. But strong differences between Britain and the European Commission continue on many other issues.

A week ago Britain appeared to be struggling to dissuade the 11 other EC countries against choosing January 1, 1994, as the date for beginning stage two of the transition to full economic and monetary union.

Jacques Delors, president of the commission and author of the EMU proposals, suggested that the date be adopted at the Rome

summit after The Netherlands and Germany had given it their support. But if anyone raises it, Mrs Thatcher will quote no less an authority than M Delors himself in defence of her objections.

In a report for the Madrid summit in 1989 M Delors said: "The conditions for moving from stage to stage cannot be defined precisely in advance; nor is it possible to foresee today when these conditions will be realised. The setting of explicit deadlines is therefore not advisable. This observation applies to the passage from stage one to stage two..."

It is thought that Mrs Thatcher may have reminded Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, of this when he saw her on

Sunday. It would explain why M Delors later backed off, saying the summit should concentrate on less contentious issues.

She and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will seek a strong EC statement on the Gulf. If the deadlock over the EC's negotiating position in the world trade talks has not been settled by then, it will become Britain's priority.

Mr Hurd is likely to ask Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, in talks today to overrule Ignaz Kieckle, the German agriculture minister.

He has been the strongest opponent of the commission's proposal that it should offer a 30 per cent cut in EC farm subsidies.

However, the leaders are sure to want to discuss proposals by the commission and the Italian government aimed at further integration. Mrs Thatcher opposes nearly all these ideas. These are the main disagreements:

■ A two-speed Europe. M Delors suggested that Britain should be allowed to make slower progress on monetary union if it accepted the principle. British officials rejected this yesterday.

■ The principle of having two further stages of monetary union, which was part of the Delors plan. Britain has implemented stage one by joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism, but official documents avoid mentioning other stages. Instead they refer to what comes after stage one. Britain is committed to John Major's proposal for a hard ecu, the European currency unit, and a European Monetary Fund to implement it.

■ Majority voting. The Single European Act allows for decisions necessary to bring about the internal market to be decided by majority. M Delors has proposed that other issues should be settled the same way. Britain rejects this.

■ The European Parliament is pressing for much greater powers. Britain rejects any change which would alter the balance, but in this it is in tune with most other governments. However, Britain proposes that the commission should be more accountable to the parliament on budgetary matters.

■ Political union. The Italian government, in preparation for the inter-governmental conference which opens in December, has suggested creating a common foreign policy. Britain feels this goes too far and has suggested more cautious steps, including limited sharing of embassies.

■ A joint defence policy. Italy has suggested that some functions of the Western European Union should be transferred to the EC. Britain rejects this, but would support a stronger WEU.

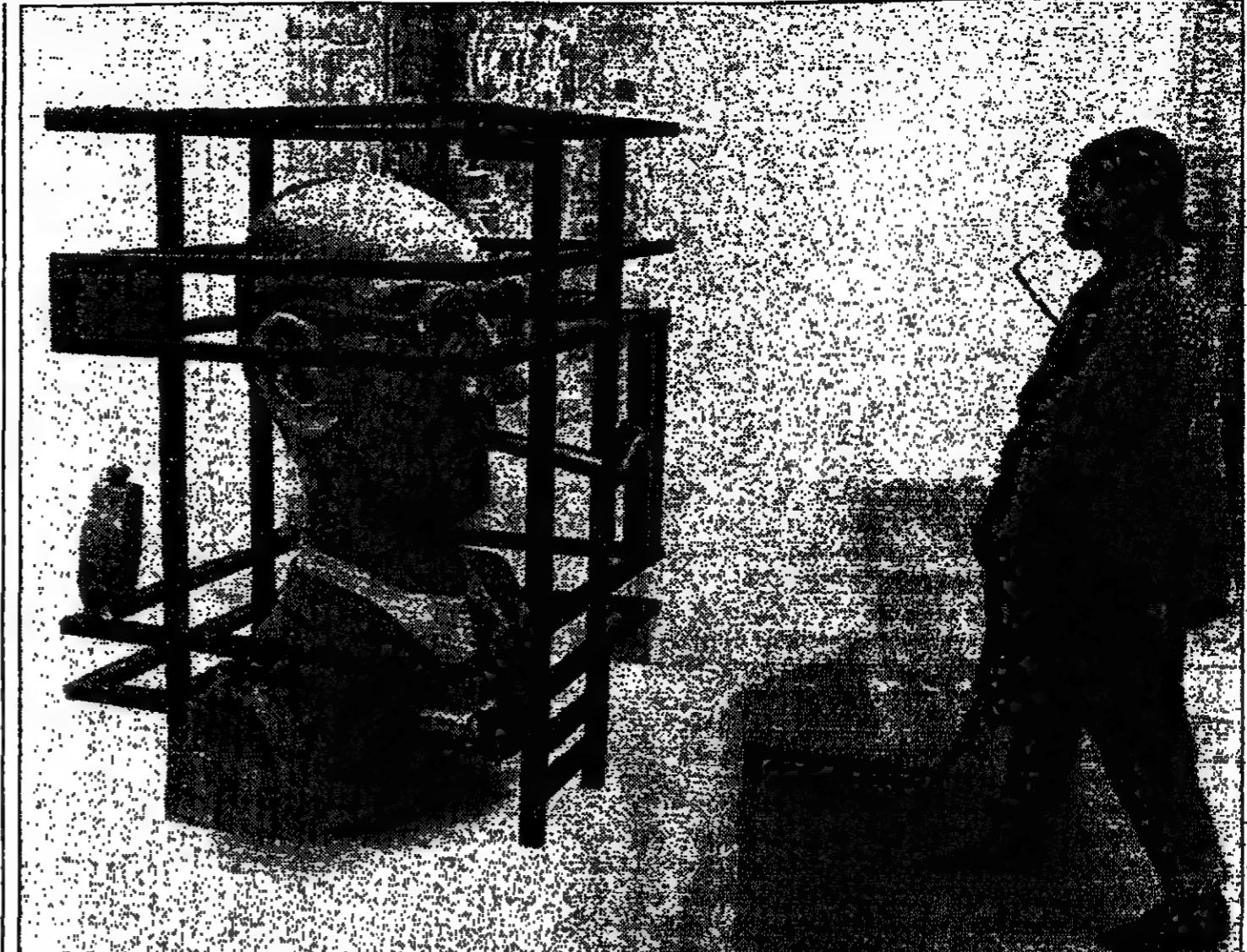
■ Italy informally floated the idea that Britain and France should give up their permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council and be replaced by the EC and Japan. It was not put forward formally, but if it had been Britain would have rejected it.

News of Mr Kadare's defection was met with disbelief by Albanian officials yesterday afternoon. At the Albanian writers' club, Mr Kadare was criticised by many of the club's members. "Havel (President Havel of Czechoslovakia) remained in Prague when things were difficult. He did not give up his homeland," one Albanian writer said.

Mr Kadare's defection is seen as a serious blow to Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, who has been pursuing a course of slow but steady reform during the last three months. The reform process he has initiated is of considerable dimension by Albanian standards,

but compared to the rest of Eastern Europe Tirana remains a bastion of orthodoxy communism. Mr Kadare for long had been held up to foreigners as an example of how quality art could flourish in Albania's Stalinist culture.

Kadare's literature expresses the essential noble qualities and freedom of the Albanian spirit," runs the rubric at the Enver Hoxha bookshop which until yesterday afternoon stocked all of Mr Kadare's works. His writings were



Face to face: a visitor to the 17th International Contemporary Art Fair in Paris studying a sculpture of Monks in a Mondrian-style cage by American artist Red Grooms. Some 15,000 people are expected to see the 155 exhibits at the Grand Palais

Defection of Albanian writer tarnishes new Tirana image

From RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S most famous living writer, Ianni Kadare, defected in Paris yesterday, casting a long shadow over Tirana's attempts to present an open image to the rest of the world by playing host to a two-day meeting of Balkan foreign ministers.

News of Mr Kadare's defection was met with disbelief by Albanian officials yesterday afternoon. At the Albanian writers' club, Mr Kadare was criticised by many of the club's members. "Havel (President Havel of Czechoslovakia) remained in Prague when things were difficult. He did not give up his homeland," one Albanian writer said.

They will be watching for news of Mr Kadare's future with particular interest. But yesterday afternoon there were no official comments, except for a terse announcement admitting that the writer had asked for political asylum in France.

The Balkan conference, which ended yesterday, issued a joint communiqué institutionalising annual meetings of the foreign ministers of all the countries present, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

The fact that Albania was hosting the conference has been interpreted as a sign that Tirana, which has pursued an isolationist policy for four decades, is keen to play a role in Europe, Reis Maille,

especially popular among young Albanians, evoking a world of simple, honest values capable of appealing to conservatives and radicals alike.

Despite the surprisingly wide respect that Mr Alia commands, young Albanians are increasingly frustrated as they witness reforms sweeping across Eastern Europe, bringing in its wake capitalism and long-denied material goods.

The high walls, studded with broken glass surrounding Western embassies here discourage an exodus similar to that of the summer when thousands of Albanians fled, but young Albanians are still frustrated and volatile.

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Moldavia warning of civil war over poll

From MARY DEUTSKY
IN MOSCOW

THE security situation in an already tense part of the Soviet Union took a sharp turn for the worse yesterday when planned elections in a region of Moldavia started ahead of time and the republic's leaders warned of imminent civil war.

The trouble centres on the southern part of Moldavia which is inhabited predominantly by ethnic Turks. Known as Gagauz territory, the region declared itself an independent republic in August and announced elections to a republic parliament. The elections were scheduled for Sunday, but Wednesday leaders of the self-styled republic said that armed units were being sent by the Moldavian authorities in an attempt to stop them.

According to Tass, elections in the Gagauz region began spontaneously yesterday morning in an attempt to pre-empt intervention from republic forces. It said thousands of people demonstrated in the regional centre, Comrat, defying the Moldavian authorities to halt the elections and appealing to the central Soviet authorities for assistance.

There were reports of volunteers detaching themselves from the Moldavian capital, Chisinau, by the nationalist Popular Front organisation. The same reports said they intended to travel to Konrat in buses to disrupt the elections. Other reports said that the Moldavian authorities were sending 2,000 interior ministry troops to try to keep order.

By Wednesday President Gorbachev had become concerned enough about the situation in the republic to appeal to its leader, Mircea Snegur, to resolve the tensions peacefully.

The republic of Moldavia borders on Romania and comprises mainly ethnic Romanians. It was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, under a secret clause in the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact similar to those which transferred the Baltic republics to Soviet rule. Over the past two years, a strong nationalist movement has grown up in Moldavia, demanding independence from the Soviet Union and union with Romania.

Food after Argentina has offered the Soviet Union increased deliveries of grain and other foodstuffs to help reduce current shortages, but the increases are dependent on credits being made available by German banks. The Argentine foreign minister will negotiate the loans in Bonn next week.

Comer Cruise O'Brien, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Film maker raises Kafka's ghost in old Prague

From ANN McELVOY
IN PRAGUE

THE ghost of Prague's forgotten son, Franz Kafka, the author, is abroad on the cobbled streets of the Old Town once again.

Resurrected from the communists' ranks of cultural upstarts, he strides through the dimly lit back streets to the Jewish cemetery, a brooding figure with a broad-brimmed hat and a frightened British accent.

Jeremy Irons of *Brideshead Revisited* fame is to star in a thriller based on the life of a writer whose pessimism and prophecies of motiveless horror and regimentation made him *persona non grata* for a regime that all too often resembled his terse, nightmarish tales.

Alec Guinness and Teresa Russell also appear in the film currently being made here by the young American director, Steven Soderbergh, whose *Sex, Lies and Videotapes* carried off the honours at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

Mr Soderbergh started planning the film as soon as the Czechoslovak revolution took place last year. "I have wanted to make this



Irons: a brooding Kafka with a frightening British accent



Guinness and Teresa Russell also appear in the film currently being made here by the young American director, Steven Soderbergh, whose *Sex, Lies and Videotapes* carried off the honours at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

"Before it seemed utopian to think of making a film about Kafka here but I could never bring myself to do it anywhere else."

He has moved in quickly to beat the flood of developers and entrepreneurs and intends the film to be an homage to Central Europe's most beautiful city as it emerges from the preserving aspic of

capture that because things will change so quickly. There will be shoe shops and fast food chains all over, I fear."

Copies of the author's most famous works, especially *The Castle* and *Metamorphosis*, are sold out as soon as they are delivered to the bookshops while the works of Lenin, Marx and his local pupils languish in remaindered piles.

The tourist board has started offering Kafka tours and the house where he was born on the Old Town Square is being renovated with the author's features staring out from a tiny commemorative plaque of a size officially designated for "cultural figures lacking connection to the working-class struggle".

A Kafka Society is being set up by intellectuals who have studied his life and work in the underground and who want to establish an archive and museum aided by the proceeds of the film.

The city guide, Jiri Potrov, has followed Kafka's fortunes since the end of the second world war. "In the 1950s he was banned because he was not optimistic enough," he recalled. "In the run-up to 1968 the papers started to

write about him again, but after the invasion he was completely banned. Then the government needed hard currency, so we were told to talk about him to Westerners but not to Czech groups."

The last important film to be made in the city was Milos Forman's *Amadeus*; the government needed the money and considered Mozart a safer topic.

Mr Soderbergh is filming at the old studios and banting with the remnants of built-in bureaucracy. "The rule is to take nothing for granted," he said.

He recently assembled cast and technicians only to find the studio in darkness because he had not officially requested the one man empowered to turn on the lights.

The cast are firmed back and forth in big black Times which until a year ago carried facsimile signatures to the Castle which dominated the imagination of Kafka, the insurance clerk, and was later the seat of power for the communists.

"We have imposed a 10-crown fine on anyone who uses the word Kafkaesque, but it is a constant temptation in Prague," said Mr Soderbergh.

Bhutto spell broken as the election is lost fair and square

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR Bhutto's crushing defeat has destroyed the magic of her name. To everybody's astonishment, there were no street protests when she was ousted on August 6 and there were none yesterday as the full extent of her rout became clear. The silence proclaims that the spell she has held over Pakistan is broken.

Few thought they would see the day when a Bhutto could not fight back with street power. The army conspired with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to topple her, and Pakistan hardly even stirred.

In another era the country would have burned from the Khyber to Karachi. The caretaker government waged a vindictive and partisan campaign against her, and still the nation did not rise up. It seemed too exhausted to budge.

Even the ever-present crowds of supporters outside her fortified Karachi home, Bilawal, were small and subdued. They whipped themselves into rare and feeble bouts of "Benazir Zindabad!" but there was no heart in it. Only when Miss Bhutto took her campaign on the road did the old magic seem to burst into life, but it turned out to be only its death throes.

There was not a scrap of enthusiasm for the election; it was as if the country was drained by ceaseless political turmoil and the trauma of three polls in five years. The small matter of raising the flag in Islamabad on Independence Day demonstrates the bewildering state of political affairs: in 1987 it was performed by Muhammad Khan Junejo (the army later dismissed him as prime minister); in 1988 by General Zia ul-Haq (he died that year in a mysterious plane crash); in 1989 by Benazir Bhutto; and

in 1990 by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister.

Pervasive doubts about the intentions of the army intensified the apathy of voters. The rival political camps did not even have the energy for violence, a primary ingredient of Pakistani politics. "Why vote for a government that will collapse in six months?" people asked.

Given the size of the victory, the new administration will be able to fend off the Pakistani People's Party without too much trouble. The government should last a good while, so long as its many constituent parties do not fracture in disagreement, which is always possible now it no longer has the discipline of uniting against Miss Bhutto.

The new government will be able to harass the former prime minister secure in the knowledge that the nation is in no mood to rise up behind her. That will give the administration a relatively free hand, although it might be constrained by a high court judiciary that can be infuriatingly impartial. There are always tame judges, however.

After 11 years of military rule and 20 months of weak and corrupt government, Pakistan finally has an elected administration with real power. It has been produced by Pakistan's third broadly democratic election (the last two were won by Bhuttos). Not only does it have a thumping majority; it has the support of the army which helped put it there. There is therefore no foreseeable possibility of military rule.

Turmoil by people who would normally have voted for Miss Bhutto was wretchedly low. There was certainly some rigging, but the mag-

nitude of her defeat could not have been the product solely of electoral fraud. Her claim that she was cheated of power is tantamount to saying that 50-odd seats were rigged, which is implausible. The result certainly shows that the much-expected sympathy wave for her did not materialise.

The special disqualification courts established under provisions dating from the Zia dictatorship will now pursue several counts of corruption and misuse of authority against Miss Bhutto. And for the first time in her political life "people power" will not be there to save her. International opinion is the only card she has left to play.

Everybody miscalculated the passive mood of the people — the army, the caretaker government, and certainly Miss Bhutto.

The armed forces were out in strength in Islamabad on the day of her dismissal because it expected trouble, but not a stone was thrown nor a slogan raised. The Pakistan People's Party was confident that it would capture at least about 80 seats, and got less than 50. The size of the rejection may well have been exaggerated by rigging, but the conclusion is inescapable: she lost, fair and square.

Leading article, page 15



Winning round: an activist fires off his rifle after the Rawalpindi victory by Ejaz ul-Haq, son of the late General Zia, in Pakistan's general election

Pakistan seeks new prime minister after rout

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

PAKISTAN will choose its new prime minister in the next few weeks after a landslide victory by opponents of Benazir Bhutto. The final tally of results from Wednesday's general election to the 217-member National Assembly gave her a humiliating 45 seats, against 93 won in 1988. The eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance won 105 seats, ensuring that it will head a powerful government. The parliamentary party of the alliance is expected to convene early next month

to choose the prime minister. The front-runner is Mian Nawaz Sharif, former Punjab prime minister and leader of the alliance. His main rival is Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the present acting prime minister, a wealthy Sindi feudal landlord with no personal political following.

International observers are due to announce their conclusions today over the conduct of the election, which Miss Bhutto claimed was widely rigged. Mr Jatoi insisted, however, that the poll was free and fair and that "no one could have

rigged such a large number of seats — it is humanly impossible".

He added that people had voted in favour of the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's government on August 6.

"The country cannot depend on the whims and fancies of a young lady,

attractive though she may be, especially to the foreign media."

The election, devoid of issues, was essentially a referendum on Miss Bhutto. The size of her defeat stunned her party; even if there was a certain amount of electoral fraud, it was still weak and vulnerable. Attempts are likely to be made to try to split it.

Temple dispute town sealed off

From COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

THOUSANDS of police and paramilitary forces are thronging the sleepy temple town of Ayodhya in north India, which Hindus believe to be the birthplace of the god, Lord Rama.

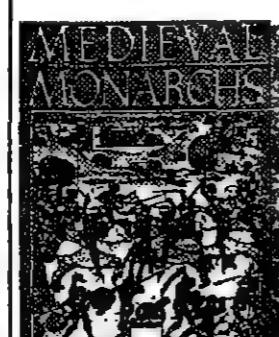
Around the disputed site of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid, heavy iron barricades have been erected and worshippers may enter only if they have passes. Hidden cameras monitor the devotees and a police post has been set up in the mosque grounds. All routes to Ayodhya have been sealed off and trains will be diverted from the city for the next few days.

All this is in preparation for next Tuesday when hundreds of thousands of devout Hindus will attempt to defy the police cordon and start construction on a temple in honour of Rama. The building will inevitably be at the expense of Babri Masjid, the old mosque which stands at the site.

The question of whether the mosque was built over an old Hindu temple to mark Lord Rama's birth is still the subject of a court investigation, and the state government has ordered that the mosque cannot be removed, even though it is in dispute, to avoid angering India's 90 million Muslims.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, which withdrew its support from the national front government of

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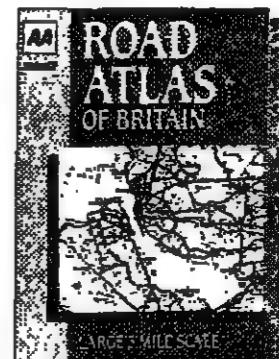
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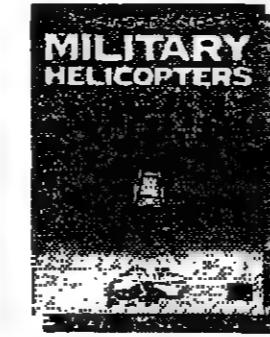
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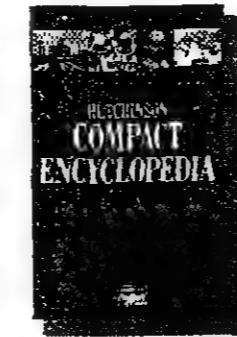
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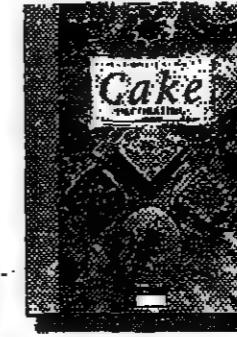
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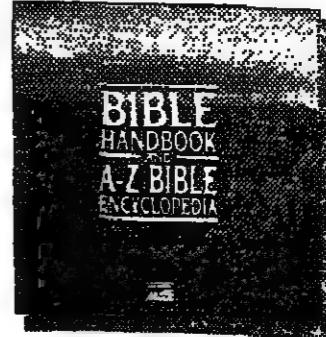
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Universal utterance

Philip Howard

We need a universal language for our increasingly interdependent world. We have one English. But mercifully it has not yet completely taken over from Babel. A very famous English judge was recently in Rome. At a dinner at the British ambassador's, our envoy to the Vatican suggested that he should attend the next papal audience. The judge pleaded that he had not brought a dark suit with him, only hot-weather wear, but the others around the table said that they would kit him out properly. The borrowed jacket fitted fine, but the only pair of trousers that came close to fitting was too tight. However, the judge was reassured that at a large public audience the Pope merely walked past the people lining the corridor, blessing all present to the right and left, like a sover broadcast. There would be no occasion to test the trousers by sitting down.

And so it happened. Except that, after the Pope's walkpast, a secretary-monsignor invited the judge into the pontiff's private study. No sooner was the door shut than the Pope motioned the judge to sit down. As he did so (tentatively) there was a loud tearing noise as the tight trousers gave up the seam. Quick as a flash the Pope said: "Index ergo cum sedebit, quidquid latet apparabit." ("When that judge sits down, all that is concealed will be revealed.") Which goes to show that for some occasions Latin is a better universal language than English. Also that the Pope has a sense of humour.

For most occasions, alas, and for the worse, English has taken over from Latin as the universal language. It is the cuckoo and corncrake language, taking words that belong to others for its own, and having an unsuitable appetite for new words. The process is often untidy, and could be better arranged, if only language were susceptible to arrangement. Take the German word *abseil*, meaning to swoop down a double rope as do mountaineers, or the SAS, or marines at the Royal Tournament, or demonstrators in the House of Lords.

Because we see mountaineering and SAS gymnastics on television, *abseil* has come into the language. But we pronounce the word in a way that upsets or amuses Germans and mountaineers, and often misspell it as we pronounce it, as *absail*. There is a perfectly good French word for the double-rope swooping act: *rappel*. "*Faire une descente en rappel*" is what we have come to describe as abseiling. It would be tidier and correct if we had chosen *rappel* instead of *abseil*. But we didn't. No doubt the false etymology with sailing fits in with our picture of chaps abseiling through the air with the greatest of ease, at a rate that must burn their fingers. It is no good pedants squeaking. If English wants *abseil*, *abseil* is what it will have.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

It is that time of year when the trees in my front garden appear to be full of strawberries. You can see them from one of those *mitteleuropaische* fold-rolls in which two winsome tots wander into the forest and leap up at such stuff as pick-your-own dreams are made on, little knowing it to be the bait set by a witch with a couple of vacancies in her pie-dish.

My trees are 15ft high, and heavy with fruit. You could reach out from my bedroom window and pluck the topmost. Were you to do so, mind, you would very soon discover that they were not strawberries at all; especially if you bit into one. They are Fools' Strawberries. Fools set in the Cricklewood of 1849 seem with old-timers sniggering at tenderfoot prospectors who hurdle into town and leap from their mules shrieking that the hills are full of soft fruit just waiting to be picked up. I have, indeed, heard it mooted that these are in fact the crinkles of which the original wood was composed, and until such time as a more authoritative etymology turns up, I am happy to believe it.

The botanical term for these flora, however, is *arbutus*, and in addition to the stunning similarity of their offspring to strawberries, they are remarkable in that they produce blossom and fruit simultaneously, which is about as close to wanliness as a plant can get. Were they women, tongues would not stop wagging. In fact, it is precisely this gancy mix of lust and motherhood which enables them to have two seasons per annum, and drive birds barmy in April as well as in October.

What drives them barmy is that while *arbutus* fruit give every appearance of juicy beaksomeness, they not only taste horrible, their scarlet hulls consist of minuscule spheres of grit held together by glue-like, the effects of which is to fill the garden with jays and chaffinches frenziedly stropping their bills on twig and fencepost. That they have never learnt to distinguish between the strawberry and its unsavoury simulacrum must be put down to the fact that birds have very small

brains which do not develop; otherwise, I suppose, they would have evolved into greengrocers.

Imagine, therefore, my astonishment yesterday morning, when, the darkness not yet fully ebb'd, I looked out of my bedroom window and saw two ancient ladies with a black plastic bag strung between them, plucking my fruit from the bushes that overthrust the road. A rather pleasing sight, actually, the misty dawn, the laden trees, the two toiling biddies, all framed within the sash: it was like having John Everett Millais's *The Arbutus-Pickers* hanging on your bedroom wall.

But it could not be left at that. Who could bear the thought of these two old dears, after all their septuagenarian effort, gleefully emptying their trophies into their little porringer, only to discover the nauseating truth? Spending the rest of the day banging their dentures against the wall in the pitiful attempt to dislodge a thousand gummy pine? I threw open the window.

They took off like whippets. I shrugged. What else could I do?

But after I had shut the window again, my worry took a graver turn: I did not know if *arbutus* was poisonous. Nature had after all gone to great lengths to put anyone off eating it. But were it to be dosed in sugar and cream, might the old ladies not get enough down to kill them? Should I organise an all-points bulletin, phone hospitals, all that?

At 9 o'clock, I phoned Kew. The switchboard patched in the Poisons Desk. Don't worry, said the Poisons Desk, *arbutus* may not be edible, but it is not poisonous. I described what I had seen. The Poisons Desk thought for a bit, and said: "Might they have been Irish?" This is Cricklewood. "Yes," I said, "why?"

"In the 16th century," said the Poisons Desk, "Irish monks began distilling a liqueur from *arbutus*. I believe some Irish folk still do."

I thanked her, and put the phone down. Is it not a wonderful world? More to the point, does anyone out there have the recipe? I would appear to be sitting on a goldmine.

Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that a continued Soviet troop presence is dangerous

Will Germany be blackmailed?

We all agree that Soviet communism is no longer a threat. But how about some of the things that can be heard moving about within the colossal ruins of the Soviet system? Strange noises were coming from that direction last week. Addressing Soviet journalists in Vienna on Thursday, in the context of talks between 22 nations on conventional arms reductions, the Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze said: "Today, more than anything, internal instability interferes with the foreign ministry's work."

The prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov was more outspoken. He said that international stability will be endangered if the Soviet Union splits into several states, "each having its own armies and maybe even nuclear arms". He warned that "the disintegration of our country would have terrible results for all", and added, "I regard this danger as very great."

Back in Moscow, the Soviet defence minister Dmitry Yazov, at a press conference with the American defence secretary Dick Cheney, stressed that nuclear confrontation

was still a fact of life. "If the United States is not our adversary," he said, "who are our strategic missiles aimed at? Venezuela? Is the United States aiming its missiles at South Korea?" Marshal Yazov is said to have been "vague" when asked about a recent report that all nuclear weapons had been removed from the troubled "peripheral" republics. He said long-range missiles were based only in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, but did not mention shorter-range nuclear weapons.

The report of missile movement, issued by the Novosti press agency, spoke about "a probability of sporadic attempts" by "financial groups" to seize nuclear weapons. Novosti added, however, that any such attempts would fail because of the "high reliability" of the Soviet system for storing nuclear arms. So that's all right.

Against this background, a report by Marc Fisher in *The Washington Post* at the weekend is doubly disquieting. It tells of growing friction in Germany between the local population and Soviet troops based there. "Angry Germans have taken pot-shots at

Soviet guards, mugged Soviet soldiers and sprayed Soviet facilities with abusive graffiti," Fisher quotes an official at the Soviet embassy in Berlin as commenting. "The danger is that those German extremists will attack a munitions post and our guards have the right to shoot back... This could lead to very severe problems."

Fisher appears to assume that the Germans, "with pent-up resentment bubbling over" would have the upper hand in any confrontation: "The Soviets are now at the mercy of a country they had dominated since 1945." I have no doubt about "the pent-up resentment", but there are no safe assumptions in an unprecedented situation. The Soviet Union is a disintegrating polity, with a collapsing economy. But within it there is still a command structure, possessing a fearsome arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. In the chaos engulfing the Soviet Union, we do not know who may gain control of that arsenal, or to what use it may be put.

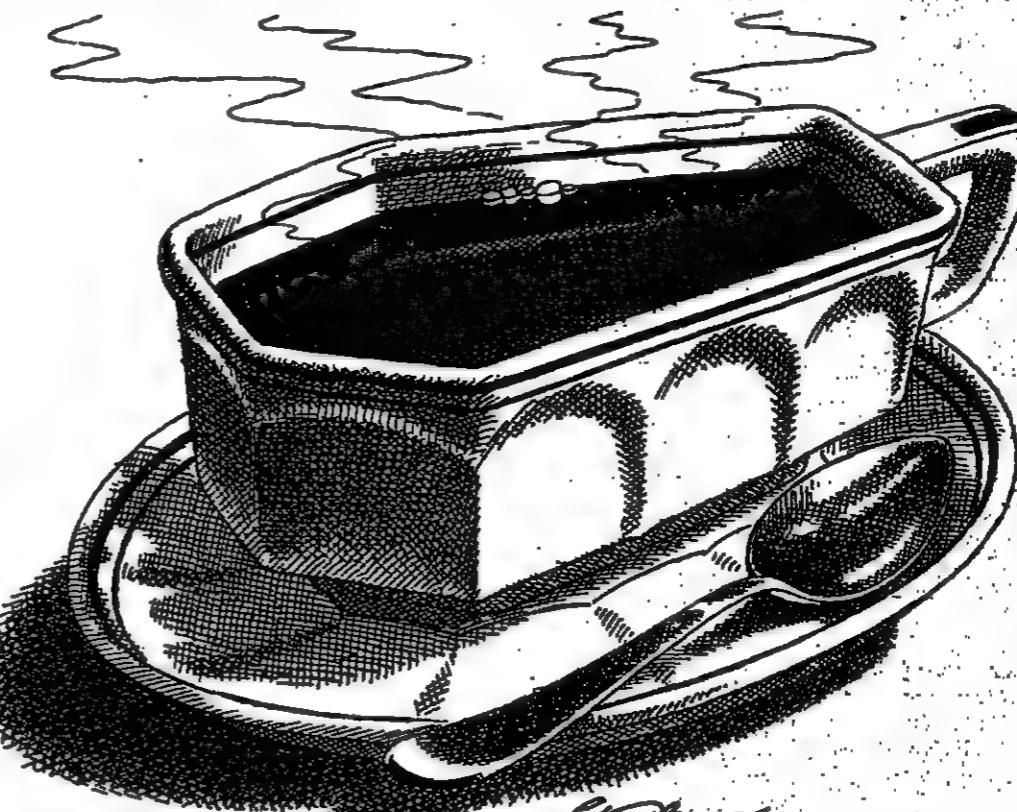
Its most obvious use to an economically ruined polity is economic blackmail, and the most obvious

target is Germany. Soviet blackmail — though not direct nuclear blackmail — has already been used on Germany, and it paid off. Chancellor Kohl got Mikhail Gorbachev to agree in a united Germany within Nato by paying cash down, including the cost of Soviet forces in its eastern provinces.

History is likely to see this as a bad bargain for Germany. The important element in the deal was not whether the reunified Germany remained in Nato, but whether Soviet troops remained after unification. The agreement says that 350,000 Soviet troops, with 200,000 family members, are to do so until 1994. Their presence, local resentment, and Soviet reaction to that resentment, are likely to cause much mischief. Specifically, they are likely to be the focus for a revival of German nationalism, and of the Russian nationalism which is the likely principal successor to Soviet communism.

The military command structure of what has been the Soviet Union, and the weapons at its disposal, will be concentrated on what has been known as the Russian Federated Socialist.

A little something to raise the pulse of rational beings



Bernard Levin celebrates a famous victory for caffeine over the massed ranks of coffin bearers

after-dinner nippie; but the best is yet to come. In introducing the sensational news, the scientist in charge of the survey, Dr Willett (to whom staves made of the finest marble should be erected) said that

there was no reason why anyone should not drink six cups of coffee a day, each bearing its load of caffeine, but that if you drink even two-thirds of that quantity of decaffeinated coffee, you may have anything up to a 60 per cent greater chance of getting heart disease.

Did you ever? Up and down the land the messengers went, spreading their beastly tidings: coffee is bad for you, coffee is dangerous, coffee is shameful, coffee ought to be abolished, coffee — I wouldn't wonder — makes you go blind.

And, on the other hand: decaffeinated coffee is good for you, decaffeinated coffee is safe, decaffeinated coffee strengthens your arteries, decaffeinated coffee — I wouldn't wonder — ensures that

your mind is free from impure thoughts.

I have always maintained that if coffee does not keep you awake all night it is not strong enough, and you should make a note to double the quantity in the pot; but whatever I never dared to say is that staying awake, savouring the memory of the divine essence, is conducive to good health. Now we have proof, and I shall gather a band of coffee-lovers about me and proclaim the news from the house-top, while another band, doubled up with laughter, cock the glorious snout one teaspoonful of decaf and you keel over, never to rise again. How does it go?

"Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe, privily." (Though let me tell you that the Lord having delivered mine enemy into mine hand, I

shall do a good deal more to him than cut off his skirt privately.)

Forgive all this unseemly rejoicing; we on the right side have been waiting a very long time for an excuse to rejoice, and particularly to rejoice without any need to qualify our triumph! For there is a serious side to this.

All the food-nonsense that fills the air today began in the United States, and it may be instructive to seek the reason. Over the years, and of course not only in the field of woxerism, I have come to believe that the people of that country are so deeply terrified of death that they have persuaded themselves — they have to, in view of the only alternative — that they have the right to live for ever, from which weird conviction follows the even more bizarre conclusion that if only they eat and drink the right things, or, more precisely,

"But we are actually worse: few of us share that attitude to death; yet we behave as though we are governed by it, at least when we are bullied by our own woxers. Well, for once the spoon is on the other foot. Not only is caffeine harmless; the lack of it is dangerous. Which coffee manufacturer will be the first to advertise his product with an imprimatur reading "Contains extra caffeine"?

We shall never have a better opportunity to rout our enemies. For this news gives us a tremendously powerful weapon. We were told, year in and year out, that coffee, unless decaffeinated, is bad for our health. We now know that the opposite is true. Hark! The clock has struck 13, and that last minute has put in doubt every one of the 12 strokes that have gone before. Near time the woxers denounce some delicious food or drink as harmful, let us greet the news with thumb to nose, and ask them to tell us why, when they were exactly 200 per cent wrong about coffee, we should believe that they are right about their latest find. I can hardly wait.

World Service sees the light

The BBC is keeping quiet, but its long-laid plans for a Television World Service are coming to fruition. The £10 million of private money necessary to start the operation — the government refused to help and BBC governors appointed merchant bankers J. Henry Schroder Wagstaffe to raise it — is said to be on its way. Sources in Bush House say recruitment of senior managers is about to start, and journalists are expected to be employed within months to start the service next year.

The BBC at first planned to broadcast only one daily half-hour bulletin, but it is now scheduling up to four bulletins of international news each weekday. They will be beamed around the world by satellite and offered free to Third World countries.

One World Service source says: "It will be a television version of the World Service news. It will not be picture-led. The programmes will be based mainly in the studio. There will be graphics, library film footage, and live pictures only when the story merits it." Existing World Service correspondents will be expected to make an input.

There is lurking political dissent about the lack of government support. One of the critics on the Tory benches, George Walden, says: "The government, because it would not provide the piddling amounts of finance that were required, has lost an opportunity for an extension of a proven system whereby the BBC remains

ultimately independent, but takes account of the national interest. There will be occasions now when this service will broadcast things which the government of the day will disapprove of."

President Cossiga of Italy has revealed a characteristically endearing Italian penchant for football. Guests at the Lord Mayor's dinner at London's Guildhall the other evening noted that Cossiga was somewhat distracted, and were intrigued when he summoned a waiter to his table. The request? Could the waiter find out the score of the Milan versus Aston Villa match? Perhaps Cossiga should have concentrated on his dinner instead. Milan lost 2-0.

Last post

For the first time in decades the poignant refrain of a bugle sounding the last post over an American soldier's grave will echo today around the British countryside. Captain Thomas Caldwell, who died when his F-11 crashed in the Gulf, will be buried at Madingley cemetery in Cambridgeshire.

The remains of Captain Caldwell, who was based at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, were due to be flown back to the United States for a full military funeral. But his British wife, Sara, wanted him laid to rest in the second world war graveyard close to her home in Cambridge.

A service will take place first at St Mary the Virgin church near Fen Ditton, which donated the cemetery site to the United States after the war. Caldwell, a weapons system operator, was one of the

first servicemen to die in the Gulf when his plane crashed on a training exercise. A member of the 495th Tactical Fighter Squadron, he had been based in Britain since 1987. A spokesman for RAF Lakenheath said: "The order came from on very high to open up the cemetery. It is the first burial there since 1952."

Robert Rhodes James, Tory MP for Cambridge, was approached by the family for assistance. "I did all I could to help. The family was anxious that Mr Caldwell be buried here. It means a great deal to them." The highest ranking officers at the base, which has 5,000 military personnel, will attend the funeral this morning.

Loving cup

With Peter Brooke and Gerald Collins jointly chairing the Anglo-Irish Conference yesterday, Peter Barry, Collins's forerunner as Irish foreign minister, is launching his own cross-border initiative, based on tea. Barry, who oversaw the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, so hated by Loyalists, has begun exporting to Belfast the

beverage produced by his Cork-based company.

But will Protestant tea-drinkers find the republican brew somewhat bitter? Michael O'Sullivan, managing director of the company, accepts that Barry is not the most popular person in the province. "That is an understatement," he says. "But tea has tremendous soothing properties." News of the Boston tea party clearly never reached the emerald isle.

Figure studies

Queen Victoria's beloved Albert may be feeling a trifle overexposed today after the removal of eight weather-beaten figures from the canopy of his famous memorial. The

four dancing angels from the pinnacle of the memorial are to join them by Christmas.

Nuclear fall-out

In a new row over electricity privatisation, the 14,000 nuclear power workers are to be given free shares even though the government, in an embarrassing about-turn, has been obliged to keep the nuclear plants in the public sector.

Some Tory MPs have written to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, in protest. Why should the nuclear workers reap the full benefit, they ask, when part-time employees in the sectors that are being sold will get nothing?

Opposition parties have seized on the issue. Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, said: "This privatisation has been a mess from the start."

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, said he was astonished and would table questions in the Commons.

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GOOD LOSERS IN PAKISTAN

The voters of Pakistan have clearly endorsed the action of their military-backed president in sacking Benazir Bhutto and her government. For all her star quality, for all her appeal to the West, and despite her status as the martyr's daughter, she simply failed to get out her vote.

No doubt there was some ballot rigging. A Pakistani election is scarcely an 'election without some. But to say, as Miss Bhutto did yesterday, that the election was stolen is plainly untrue. Massive crowds turning out at election meetings do not necessarily translate into queues at the polling stations, as Rajiv Gandhi in neighbouring India can testify. The verdict of the international observers today must be awaited, but journalists watching the polls overwhelmingly agree that such stolen ballot boxes as there were cannot have materially affected the result.

The Pakistani electorate was angered by the paralysis that afflicted Miss Bhutto's administration and by the corruption of her People's Party as they dipped their fingers in the governmental trough for the first time for 13 years. Loyal supporters were disappointed by her failure to narrow the gap between rich and poor, as she had promised. They were horrified by the rampant banditry in the southern province of Sind. They were also unhappy at her apparent softness towards India, the old enemy. Miss Bhutto's fans stayed at home.

Pakistan has little reason for existence aside from the common religion of most of its inhabitants. There are no ethnic, linguistic or geographic imperatives to hold it together. The western part coalesces thanks to a coincidence of interests between a landowning aristocracy and an autocratic military caste. Even its democrats have been drawn from the baronial classes. Miss Bhutto, like her late father, represents one of the most powerful families in Sind. So does the prime minister she replaced, M. K. Jinnah. So too does the man who succeeded her, G. M. Jatoi.

Miss Bhutto came to office because she was ready to cooperate with the soldiers. She ruled under Zia's constitution. She accepted Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as her foreign minister. She was welcomed by the military.

GORBACHEV AND THE WEST

The Soviet and Russian authorities are once again at loggerheads, not just over economics but over a fundamental constitutional issue: the right of the Soviet government to enforce its laws on Russian soil. This may be less of a challenge to President Gorbachev than might at first appear. Because the Soviet Union is still far from being a law-governed state, such legal confrontations often turn out to be simply political disputes. However, the ardour for outright independence in the Baltic states, the Transcaucasus and now even Ukraine, cannot be so easily dismissed. Sooner or later, the apparently irresolvable must be resolved.

The West should respond to this consequence of the postwar peace as is as complex and important as how it had to respond to the onset of the cold war. A reform and stabilisation programme under the aegis of Mr Gorbachev could be made socially tolerable if it were backed by a large dose of conditional Western aid. To this extent, the West has real influence over Mr Gorbachev's hold on office. On the other hand, the explicit recognition of republican independence movements, which the West has withheld so far, could become the catalyst to the breakup of the Soviet system.

The West's gratitude and respect for Mr Gorbachev has become more and more offset by a natural sympathy for national self-determination among the peoples as they seek to throw off decades of Soviet repression. Some, though not all, of the independence movements do seem to offer faster progress towards democracy — and capitalism — than that likely to come from those who continue to occupy the Kremlin.

In terms of geopolitics, most Western politicians still find the case for backing Mr Gorbachev a strong one. The prospect of a new world order based on alliance between the two nuclear superpowers is simply too alluring to welcome the Soviet Union's potential fragmentation into 15 or more unstable

powers, several of which might even have access to the country's nuclear arsenal. This argument has been significantly weakened by the disappointing progress made by Mr Gorbachev towards that might at first appear. Because the Soviet Union is still far from being a law-governed state, such legal confrontations often turn out to be simply political disputes. However, the ardour for outright independence in the Baltic states, the Transcaucasus and now even Ukraine, cannot be so easily dismissed. Sooner or later, the apparently irresolvable must be resolved.

The failure of the Soviet Union to commit itself wholeheartedly to a decentralised, market system must call the West to question its backing for Mr Gorbachev. His continuing inability to force through economic reform — assuming he really wants to do so — means that Western aid would almost certainly be wasted. It also implies failure for his efforts to redefine the Soviet Union as a voluntary and democratic confederation of independent states. In the Soviet Union today, constitutional and economic reform are inextricably interconnected, as Mr Gorbachev well knows.

If the economy could be decentralised, most of the republics would probably sign a new union treaty, which would at last transform the Soviet Union into a law-governed constitutional state. This expectation was at the heart of the rapprochement last August between the Soviet president and his most senior political rival, Boris Yeltsin. The hope of creating a confederal Soviet Union, more like the European Community than the United States, was also behind a temporary diminution in the rhetorical warfare between the Soviet government and the independence-minded republics.

But the continuation of a command economy is patently incompatible with national autonomy. The question now is whether Mr Gorbachev's apparent retreat from reform earlier this month was a genuine victory for those hostile to the market within the Soviet Union, or merely another tactical manoeuvre. His past record suggests that it is tactical, but the time for manoeuvring is running out, and may have run out already. Until the prospects for a market economy in the Soviet Union become clear, the West can only stand back and cheer the authentic reformers, be they in the Kremlin or the republics.

COMPASSION OR CONTROL?

Judges and magistrates send too many criminals to jail. The reason, according to the Home Office, is that they think probation is a soft option. Probation officers complain that the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill will force them to be too tough, to be jailers rather than social workers. They plan to vote against the bill at their conference this week. If they do, the sentencers will only be reinforced in their belief that probation officers are a bunch of wets. More criminals will be sent to jail.

Probation officers are now at the true coal face of crime prevention. A growing public consensus feels that prison is truly appropriate only for crimes of violence, and certainly not for the 80 per cent of offences committed by young people against property. None the less, the public also expects "punishment in the community" to mean just that, a regime that combines reform with a measure of constraint and discipline, indeed regards social discipline as part and parcel of rehabilitation.

Most probation officers would prefer their clients to remain outside prison. If officers were prepared to accept that their job involved social control as well as social work, offenders might be more willing to give offenders probation or community service orders. This is what the government is trying to achieve in the bill. The bill is, in this respect, a good thing.

What the National Association of Probation Officers says at its annual general meeting should not be taken as typical of every probation officer's view. Lately many officers have come to accept the need for imposing discipline on their charges, though this is hard for those trained as social workers.

Probation officers, afraid that their relationship with their charges may be ruined if they are also the disciplinarians, would naturally prefer

others, such as the police, to administer punishment in the community. Yet many other professions have to combine help and encouragement with discipline. Teaching is one example; management is another. A judicious combination of the two is the essence of a good parent. The offender may welcome control to help him overcome the problem that leads to crime. If a young man becomes violent when drunk, a probation officer can and should have the means to ensure that he cannot go near a pub on a Saturday night.

The probation service complains that the government is not sincere in its desire to keep criminals out of jail. It points to the home secretary's backtracking over "sentencing on the offence", which was to have been a central principle of the bill. Judges and magistrates were to have been told not to take into account a criminal's previous record when sentencing, so stopping the courts from imposing the recidivist's ladder: from a fine to probation to a community service order to prison. But the home secretary, David Waddington, has changed his mind. He thinks he cannot sell more flexible sentencing to a public whom he regularly terrifies with crime statistics.

He hopes, instead, that if the probation service can be persuaded to take a more disciplinary role, judges and magistrates will pass more community sentences. After the bill is enacted, sentencers may change their ways. If they do not, Mr Waddington will have to consider whether they should retain so much discretion in sentencing. The judiciary must remain independent of government, but they could be advised by sentencing councils composed of lawyers and laymen. This widely-supported innovation may have to be tried;

Non-racial sport as political tool

From Mr John Carlisle, MP for Luton North (Conservative)

Sir, I am tempted to believe that Peter Hain's optimistic article ("Sport given its chance" (October 20), is written in the genuine belief that, despite the political restraints imposed upon South Africa's sportsmen and women the time is now right for international competition to resume.

Mr Hain makes much of "non-racial" sport, but many sports bodies would argue that they themselves have already integrated beyond the existing legislation, writing into their constitutions that all sports participation must be fully non-racial and no selection be allowed on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

That other bodies representing ethnic groups still exist was in some instances at the insistence of those non-whites themselves, still preferring to play and organise sport amongst their "own" people rather than join the more elitist clubs who would have swamped them by ability and expertisation.

But the dead hand of politics is all too apparent in Mr Hain's approach. He admits that "a comprehensive lifting of the boy-cott could occur only after a political settlement". In other words, when the National and Olympic Sports Congress, run by the ANC, have achieved their stated aims of unitary bodies, parity and non-racism in sport, they would then demand the same conditions in housing, social welfare and education from their own Government before "allowing" sport to resume international activity.

Most commentators would agree that those ideal conditions hardly exist in any country in the world, let alone in much of the Commonwealth who are South Africa's most vociferous opponents. My experience of South African sport is rather more recent than Mr Hain's and I can tell him that many resent the rather arrogant assumption that sport's re-entry is at the behest of the ANC. If the ANC insist, as they seem to be doing, on controlling every club, every school, and every form of sports activity, then South Africa's future will be totally in the hands of the politicians.

It will still be used as an instrument to beat every government with whom they find disfavour and the isolation may be reversed as sport turns against a country who shamelessly use their participants as political weapons. The return of South African sport to the international arena must be when sports authorities are satisfied that the necessary criteria for equality and fairness exist, not when politicians decide that they now have little further need for this particular political influence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CARLISLE,
House of Commons.

Insurance medicals

From Dr G. R. Smith

Sir, I am sympathetic with Rupert Morris (Health, October 18) in his quest for more openness with the result of life insurance examinations. Doctors are specifically told by insurance companies not to reveal the result of any examination to the patient. But surely the patient needs to know in order to make relevant changes in his lifestyle.

Recently one of my patients had his premium "loaded" as a result of a second examination. He then came to me and is having further tests which would not have arisen if he had been told the result in the first place.

It is time for a re-examination of insurance medicals generally. The companies could have a positive role in health prevention by further loading of smokers, perhaps with discounts for stopping.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. SMITH,
Foxborough House, Sapiston,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Plague victims

From Mr A. Th. Arber-Cooke

Sir, The report (Archaeology, October 16) that the Black Death may have caused less mortality in London than sources indicate is apparently based on the partial excavation of one of the two cemeteries opened for plague victims who could not be accommodated in the City's monastic and parochial churchyards, of which there were about 150, some very small.

London wills proved in the Court of Husting tell a different story. In the published volume of abstracts for 1258-1358 the wills

for an average year occupy ten pages of print or less. Those for 1349, the worst plague year, occupy more than 110 pages.

These are the records of a single court. Other London wills were proved in the bishop's consistory and chancery courts and in the archbishop's Prerogative Court.

Moreover, the records refer only to those who had property to bequeath and time to make deathbed dispositions. They can have been only a minority of the victims.

Yours faithfully,
A. TH. ARBER-COOKE,
Ty Cerrig, Stone Street,
Llanidloes, Dyfed.
October 17.

conflict between three sub-clauses in clause 7 that Larkin's literary executors (including Andrew Motion and myself), with the agreement of the trustees, sought advice through the Society of Authors. As a result, counsel's opinion was produced by a QC.

It strikes me as odd that Mr Whitehead, himself apparently a lawyer, takes so lightly this opinion ("Since when has a barrister been in a position to give a ruling, rather than to express a personal opinion?"). There is, of course,

nothing sacrosanct about a coun-

sel's opinion: this is the law, not the church. But Mr Whitehead, in his zeal to put to rights those who sought to clarify a difficult will, is

arrogantly convinced that "the

clause" (in fact one of three contradictory clauses) is "clear and unambiguous".

If Mr Whitehead would have preferred the unambiguity of a final and total bonfire, I have to say that not only counsel's opinion but the executors' long friendship and conversations with, and letters from, Philip Larkin convince me that this is not at all what Larkin wanted or expected to happen, in spite of a will which in some ways is (uncharacteristically for Larkin) "a muddle".

One final point. The only texts

that Larkin unambiguously instruc-

ted to be destroyed (his diaries)

were destroyed soon after his death.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY THWAITE,
The Mill House, Low Tharston,
Norwich, Norfolk.

October 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Effect of poll tax on the franchise

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for Derbyshire North (Labour)

Sir, You report (October 22) a written reply to a Commons question from myself concerning the dramatic decline in the number of voters in the Prime Minister's Finchley seat. The franchise has fallen by 8.5 per cent (or 4,725 people) over the last two years and in the four-seat borough of Barnet there has been a total loss of nearly 15,000 people over the same period.

Mr Hain makes much of "non-racial" sport, but many sports bodies would argue that they themselves have already integrated beyond the existing legislation, writing into their constitutions that all sports participation must be fully non-racial and no selection be allowed on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

That other bodies representing ethnic groups still exist was in some instances at the insistence of those non-whites themselves, still preferring to play and organise sport amongst their "own" people rather than join the more elitist clubs who would have swamped them by ability and expertisation.

Nationally, the electoral register has already sunk since the general

election, following on from yearly increases during the preceding years of Thatcherism. Official figures for 1988-9 show that 90,000 people disappeared from the electoral register in England. Seventy-six constituencies saw a fall of over 1,000 people and 35,000 people disappeared in the Liverpool area in that year.

In the last year there has been a small increase in the electorate, but the increase does not appear to have kept up with larger increases in the population, as it has in the past. There is a shortfall of 600,000 people on the electoral register: that is the difference between the number of voters and the number of eligible citizens. That is a shortfall of about 1,000 people in each constituency.

There are undoubtedly several factors at play, but the most dedicated advocate of the poll tax cannot deny that it is a major factor. It is a disgrace to democracy. The poll tax and the right to vote must be clearly disconnected and far more resources must be devoted to encouraging electoral registration.

Yours etc,
HARRY BARNES,
House of Commons.

Cool appraisal of global warming

From Dr Ray Noble

Sir, We should not be as complacent about the consequences of global warming as Wilfred Beckerman ("Keep cool and spurn the scientists", October 24), but I do have some sympathy with his sentiments.

It is not sufficient for scientists to say, as some environmentalists and climatologists do, that the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has settled the issue. Scientific understanding should never be dictated by a committee. There is so much we don't understand: so much more we need to know.

For example, the precise relationship between current global warming and carbon dioxide levels is not fully understood. Evidence from ice-core samples suggests that atmospheric carbon dioxide was increasing throughout the last century before the burning of fossil fuels was under way.

Furthermore, although I am not a climatologist, evidence in scientific journals suggests that global temperatures were also rising at this time. Thus, in the Middle Ages (around 1000 to 1400) global temperature was greater than it is now. This was followed by a "mini ice-age" when the Thames was regularly frozen over.

Since then mean global temperature has probably been increasing steadily to its present level. Scientists must explain why they dismiss this as "beside the point" if they are to convince us that current warming is due to fossil fuel emissions.

I have little doubt that the added effect of fossil fuel emissions and the high present levels of carbon dioxide will add to global warming and we must act to cut emissions. But to stifle the debate is ultimately to weaken the case that something urgent has to be done, and if the scientists do not explain the basis of their predictions they should not be surprised if others, like Wilfred Beckerman, begin to cry foul.

Yours sincerely,
RAY NOBLE,
49 Old Road, Oxford.

Pay in labour market

From Mr David Thomas

Sir, Your editorial of October 22 quotes misleading figures on average pay rises in different sectors of the economy over the 12 months to April this year. As a consequence, you draw erroneous conclusions about the behaviour of different parts of the labour market.

The figures you quoted for average-earnings increases related only to male manual workers, a minority of the British labour force. The Government's figures for all full-time employees, male and female, manual and non-manual, show these increases in average earnings between April 1989 and April 1990:

Private sector 10.1 per cent
Local government 8.4 per cent
Central government .. 8.4 per cent

In these matters, choosing the base date is crucial. These figures for average-earnings increase in the two-year period, April 1988 to April 1990, illustrate this well:

Private sector 21.1 per cent
Local government .. 18.2 per cent
Central government 24.1 per cent

No evidence there, I suggest, that current inflationary pressures in the labour market emanate from local government.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID THOMAS (Secretary),
Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board,
41 Belgrave Square, SW1.

Broadcasting bill

From Mr Michael Rothwell

Sir, When will Lord Wyatt



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The President of the Italian Republic visited Oxford today and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Bt).

Having received an Address of Welcome from the Chancellor (the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead) at the Sheldonian Theatre. His Excellency attended a lecture given by Professor John Woolhouse and subsequently viewed the Newman Centenary Exhibition in the Bodleian Library.

The President of the Italian Republic was entertained to lunch in Merton College and afterwards visited the College Chapel, Oriel College.

Later His Excellency opened the exhibition "Italian nocturnal Landscapes" at the Ashmolean Museum (Dr Christopher White, Director).

The President of the Italian Republic, with The Princess of Wales, visited the Accademia Italiana, Rutland Gate. They toured the exhibition in the Shadow of Vesuvius, escorted by Dr Ross Mario Lotti (Director of the Accademia Italiana) and Professor Nicola Spinosa (Superintendent of the Artistic and Historic Heritage of the City of Naples).

His Excellency Major General Gary Prado was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Bolivia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Jorge Urquidi-Barrau (Minister Counsellor), Señorita Marta Bosacoma Bonel (First Secretary), Señor Patricia Quintanilla (Second Secretary), Señor Jaime Bueno (Trade Attaché [Minerals] and Señora Gabriela Vargas (Attaché [Consular Affairs]).

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr. Robert Robertson (Australian Ambassador to the Argentine Republic) and Mrs. Robertson were received by The Queen.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Wilkins was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief (Gibraltar).

Lady Wilkins was also received by Her Majesty.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening were entertained at a Recital and Banquet by The President of the Italian Republic at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon. Sir Robert Fellowes were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, attended further meetings of the Award Scheme General Council at the Northampton Moat House and the Derngate and afterwards visited Avon Cosmetics, Nun Mills Road, Northampton.

Lieutenant-Commander Malcolm Sillars, R.N., was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Right Reverend Robin Woods at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming (formerly Dean of Windsor) which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Right Reverend Michael Mann.

The Duke and Duchess of York were represented by Captain Neil Blair, R.N.

The Prince Edward was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer.

The Prince's Royal was represented by the Hon. Mrs. Legge-Bourke.

CLARENCE HOUSE
October 25: Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was represented by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

The Royal Army Pay Corps

Officers of the Royal Army Pay Corps held their Paymaster-in-Chief's annual dinner at Worthy Down last night. The principal guests, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, BT, Rear-Admiral D. Allen, Major-General G.W. Field, Major-General C.A. Kinig, Air Vice-Marshal M.J.C.W. Dicken, Brigadier D.A. Grove, the Representative Colonel Commandant, General Sir John Stubbs, and Colonel Commandant, Major-General

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 25: The Prince of Wales, Patron, The Prince's Trust, received a group of young Polish entrepreneurs.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Canadian Dragoons, received Brigadier General George Bell and Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Appleton.

The Princess of Wales attended a Service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Blitz at St Paul's Cathedral. Miss Anne Beckwith Smith and Squadron Leader David Barton, R.A.F. were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales was entertained at a Banquet by The President of the Italian Republic at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were represented by the Right Reverend the Lord Cogan at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE

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The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening were entertained at a Recital and Banquet by The President of the Italian Republic at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

In the evening, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Joint Patron, London House for Overseas Graduates, was present at a reception and opened the Walter Bibborough Suite at London House, Mexborough Square, London, WC1.

Dame Joan Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by the Commander Roger Walker, R.N., at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Captain Neil Blair, R.N.

The Prince Edward was repre-

sented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer.

The Prince's Royal was repre-

sented by the Hon. Mrs. Legge-

Bourke.

YORK HOUSE

October 25: The Duchess of Kent was this evening entertained at a Recital and Banquet by the President of the Italian Republic at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon. Sir Robert Fellowes were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, attended further meetings of the Award Scheme General Council at the Northampton Moat House and the Derngate and afterwards visited Avon Cosmetics, Nun Mills Road, Northampton.

Lieutenant-Commander Mal-

colm Sillars, R.N., was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Right Reverend Robin Woods at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Right Reverend Launcelot Fleming which was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was repre-

sented by the Right Reverend Michael Mann.

The Duke and Duchess of York were represented by Captain Neil Blair, R.N.

The Prince Edward was repre-

sented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer.

The Prince's Royal was repre-

sented by the Hon. Mrs. Legge-

Bourke.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 25: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning opened the Thatched Lakeside Shopping Centre.

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CHARLES HOUSE

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CHARLES HOUSE

October 25: Queen Elizabeth, the Queen



Happy families: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, with his second family, wife Judy and their children, Philip, aged six, and Jessica, four

Second family, second class?

Recent statements on divorce — its prevention and cure — represent one aspect of the government's determination to give more public support to the family. The imminent white paper gives some clue to its thinking. By insisting that a divorced father pays maintenance for his children to his first wife, it is being emphasised that a man's commitment to his own children is for life.

Nobody can quarrel with this. But often the divorced father does not limit his obligations to just this one family. Four out of five divorced men go on to remarry within three years of a divorce, often to take on responsibility for a lone parent and her children, or to have further children. So how will these second families (now thought to number more than a million) fare as a result of the proposal in the white paper?

The answer, according to Sue Slipman, the director of the National Council for One-parent Families, is very badly. "We welcome any increase in the level of maintenance collected, but this must be at a fair level," she says. "The proposed formula [which could mean that a man would have to pay half his 'disposable' income to his first family] seems harsh and will hit low income families hardest. It may well be counter-productive, creating a backlash from men who feel they have been unfairly treated. It may even prompt some to leave employment and claim state benefits."

Will children of second marriages have to pay the price for proposed laws on maintenance after a divorce? Elizabeth Hodder reports

For most fathers it is extremely difficult to run two families, especially if they are on low incomes. However hard it tries, the government will be unable to squeeze sufficient money for two separate families out of one man.

The government is in a dilemma, partly because it has been forced to intervene in an area in which, if everyone behaved in a "conventional manner", no government would wish to intervene at all. As a result, it is likely that in trying to resolve the problem for one set of families it is in danger of creating exactly the same kind of problem for another set of families, many of which are faced with additional financial burdens.

When a second family is formed, a divorced man is immediately faced with a conflict of loyalties. Should his first loyalty be to his first wife and children, or should he try to cement a strong bond between them and their stepfather?

In the government's proposals the natural father will have to think hard about making any firm commitment to his stepchildren. What will this do to a new second family when the man cannot take on any financial obligations for the children? The government will thereby create second families which are denied the possibility of reaching financial self-sufficiency or of fulfilling normal family obligations.

In all divorce disputes, money is often used as a weapon. Mature adults will always put their children's interests first. But maturity in adults often disappears after a divorce. Vindictiveness between first and second families is endemic, but never more prevalent than when the "second wife" is forced to work, not just to provide financial support for her own family, but also to contribute towards the maintenance payments of her husband and his first family. Second

wives may become breadwinners and supporters for two families; perhaps there will be plans for an attachment of their earnings, too? Money is often linked to access by divorced fathers. The withholding of money in the past has been a means — however unpleasant — of ensuring that a divorced father had some bargaining tool at his disposal to gain weekend access to his own children. A guaranteed maintenance payment may, in practice, leave a divorced man unable ever to see his children.

The government is right to focus on the family and it is clearly thinking hard about how best to help families with children. But it is crucial that all the implications of family proposals should be considered. The danger is that the appalling financial and emotional complexities of the second family will encourage the government to decide, on financial and even moral grounds, that the country cannot afford second families. But second families exist and, whether we like it or not, they will for some time to come continue to increase in numbers. Increasing numbers of children are living in second homes. If, as is surely the case, the whole purpose of family policy is to give children greater protection and support, then any realistic family policy must avoid treating the second family as if it were an aberrant, immoral, and unaffordable family type.

© The author is founder of the National Stepfamily Association. She is a mother of two and stepmother of five children.

Intelligent



Jacqueline Braggi in the November issue

LITER

First lessons in how not to feel the benefit

Sir Ian Gilmore said in the Commons on Wednesday that only Malta and Iran paid a higher benefit for the first-born child than the others, thus putting Britain between a rock and a hard place. That is entirely appropriate to the mess the government has created for itself. Or, rather, for mothers.

Let us first dispense with the unspoken view in some quarters which has it that recipients of child benefit rush straight from the post office to the pub. A week's supply of disposable nappies costs 24p more than the weekly benefit. Therefore the amount of money involved is irrelevant, except in one sense that I will come to.

My wife and I have the kind of family structure which does not fit in with the press button mentality prevalent in Whitehall, where people are required to be typical, average, median or in some other way computer friendly. Our pigeonhole contains a bird of a different feather.

The third of our three daughters had the bureaucratic misfortune to arrive 16 years after the first two. That disqualifies my wife from any increase in benefit, even though the arguments about the cost of the first-born apply just as much to children born after a long gap: there are no hand-me-downs in the wardrobe surviving from the early Seventies, much less prams, pushchairs and the other paraphernalia of parenting.

My wife has not been in paid employment for much of that time. She has dedicated herself to our children. She is a model believer in family values. But if she had worked, the birth of our third daughter would have meant her giving up work, the biggest cost

against a husband walking out, or dropping dead, or going bankrupt. The point of the benefit is its separateness and its consistency, factors which the three-year freeze has taken away. If it can be frozen, it can be reduced (a freeze is a reduction). If it can be reduced, it can be abolished.

We are told the government spends £5 billion a year on child benefit. Actually, no: the taxpayer spends it, and the top rate taxpayer pays proportionately more than others, rightly so. There is no empirical evidence that large numbers of taxpayers, with or without children, oppose this benefit.

The government says not, thus breaching the principle that mothers are the focus of the child benefit rules: the first child of a second marriage is being discriminated against in cases where only the father has other children.

All of this tinkering with the rules speaks of children in terms of what they cost and what they are worth, as if we were comparing family cars. Such talk would cease if the central fallacy of child benefit was to be owned up to and come to.

Child benefit should not be compensation for being unable to work. A woman who stops work to have a child loses money, no matter how poorly paid the job she had.

Child benefit is therefore a statement, not of money cost, but of social value, a statement of principle by the society: we value what you do, we can neither measure nor pay the full cost of what you do, but here is an amount that will at least protect your child should all else fail.

Child benefit is a safety net

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Child benefit is a safety net

PETER BARNARD

Enter Elaine Stritch, stompin' at the Berkeley

Elaine Stritch, the American actress, "commides that she could be a hell of a criminal. I can dream up schemes that make your eyes pop." She is now testing some of these talents at the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge, London, timing her arrival at the hotel. (From Claridge's, where she was a regular patron for five years) with the opening of her month-long starring role in *Love Letters* at Wyndham's theatre.

After many years of flying at the Savoy and Claridge's, playing the West End, singing in musicals by Sir Noël Coward and Stephen Sondheim and plays by Neil Simon and Tennessee Williams, Miss Stritch is a veteran when it comes to getting the best out of a hotel.

Who else would have the nerve to demand that empty suites be filled with baskets of fruit and flowers in order for her picture to be taken in them (her room, she told the manager, was just chaotic) and then to ask sweetly if she could have the fruit and flowers. Who else would have the effrontery to waltz into a restaurant, singing and shouting "Hey, someone" and then request a doggie bag for her dinner sole, plus an extra lemon and two golden delicious apples. Miss Stritch does not know the meaning of the word embarrassment.

"I'm a big lady at heart," she says, wrapping her parcel in napkins initialed B which, she says, could be her own, since her married name was Bay. "To live in a hotel, you have to stock up with supplies or they've got you. That fruit basket would be £50. There are lots of little things you learn to cheat on and you can get your bottom dollar there are always a few apples or strawberries in my fridge."

Miss Stritch is diabetic and has to have a fridge in which to keep her insulin. "I tell all the waiters and my buddies in the dining room that I'm diabetic, and it's a great way to get quick service," she says. Miss Stritch is not crying wolf. "Are you kidding me? I can get into real trouble. Once at Claridge's I was with that crazy woman, Ruby Wax, and I forgot to eat. The next minute everything went fuzzy and I was out to lunch instead of dinner. That gave Ruby a fright. Now she always says: 'Here, eat your roll!'"

Miss Stritch insists that she cannot afford not to "cheat".

The theatre is, bitch, the money is peanuts, and to earn

real tricks you have to go into the movies." How does she afford a hotel costing £220 a day? "As I have lived at hotels in the Savoy chain for so many years, they give me a monthly rate rather than a daily one. They are good to me. Besides, think about the cost of buying and running a house in this neighbourhood. Living here has to be cheaper. It is, anyway, worth every penny, she says. She has run a house and she knows which she prefers.

Miss Stritch spent two years converting an old house on the Hudson river, in the United States, which she had bought with her husband, the actor John Ray. He died

"It's like living in a palace. I have a staff bigger than the Queen, a built-in family, and I don't have to leave any of them a single penny."

before it was finished. "The day the builders didn't ring the doorbell, it felt weird. I picked up the phone and called real estate." The house was sold and an apartment in Manhattan purchased; this is now her home in America. But Miss Stritch promises to love hotels best. "I'm here to tell you that there is nothing better than living in a hotel and there is especially nothing better than living in one of the Savoy hotels." She is, she says, a very lucky woman. "It's like living in a palace. I have a staff bigger than the Queen, a built-in family, and I don't have to leave any of them a single penny. It is a dream of a life and it's why I still have a sparkle in my eye." A sparkle one might add, that she would like to train on a second husband. "Two is, nothing where I come from," she says.

Miss Stritch left her home in Michigan in 1945 at the age of 18. Her interest in drama had begun at the Sacred Heart convent, where the tall girl with the low voice, played men. She went to New York, became an actress, and was soon touring. "I have never travelled to a country to see a building or a monument, I travel to open. This is a wanderer's life; it is a cliché, but I do feel most at home in a dressing room."

When Noel Coward brought her to England she found a home at the Savoy, where Coward was also living. "Noel told them to look after me and teach me how to behave." They tried, but they could not stop Miss Stritch keeping Bridget, her dachshund, in her suite. Finally, the Savoy asked her if she would mind carrying Bridget in and out of the hotel hidden in her bag. Were not allowed to bring her bag. When her husband died in 1982, and after ten and a half years of married life at the Savoy, Miss Stritch could not bear to stay. "I went to Claridge's and I loved it, but I found myself spending too much. You walk around Bond Street and South Molton Street and it's so easy to go into all those little shops like Yves Saint Laurent and Chanel... stay away from them, sweetie."

Now she is at the Berkeley.

"I'm having a hell of a good time hotel swapping. I don't think I would be the most popular girl in town if I went to the Ritz, so I'm staying in the family." The manager of the Savoy asked her why she was choosing the "boozing Berkeley" instead of his hotel. "I said to him, 'It's the unseable Berkeley. There is an open air swimming-pool on the roof, and my hairdresser has moved here. Are you crazy? I had to come.'"

Miss Stritch loves living in London and she loves the English. "They like me and it is very hard not to like people who like you. When I was a kid, Noel Coward told me that his people, as he called the Londoners, would fall in love with me. He said 'they will like your kind of talent and your kind of spirit'. It would be a love affair," he said. I found it to be true. I'm most grateful."

So saying, she leapt up.

"Take away that said George, and I'll kill you."

George was not English. He still smiled. The Berkeley was becoming accustomed to Miss Elaine Stritch.

NICOLA MURPHY



Home from home: Elaine Stritch says "They like me and it is very hard not to like people who like you. Noel Coward told me that his people would fall in love with me."

Mirabella

OUR LADY OF MANAGUA
CAN CHAMONIX'S PRAYERS KEEP THE CARIBBEAN AT REST?

TALKING HAIR
WHAT IT GIVES AWAY OR WHAT WE SEE ABOUT IT

DEBRA WINGER SPEAKS UP

JOVIE MITCHELL'S EXCLUSIVE

UN-BEANGLAMOUR

SECRET OF SUCCESS GO ON TO THE TOP

HIGH-FAIRS IN MANHATTAN

SEEING THROUGH THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

More Than Pox

JOHN CLEMMON'S CLOTHES

BASQUE COUNTRY

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Flying the flag in the face of terrorism

Hope and confidence have returned to the Basque Country after a difficult period in which the region suffered from both terrorism and economic recession. Although terrorism by Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (Eta), the extreme nationalist organisation which demands Basque independence, continues, the signs are that it is supported by a shrinking minority of the population. At the same time, the economy is showing renewed vitality, creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

José Antonio Ardanza, the *Iñaki*, or premier, of the Basque regional government, says he believes Eta violence is being defeated. A fundamental step in that process was the agreement of 1988 in which terrorism was condemned by every significant party in the Basque Country except Herri Batasuna, formally distinct from Eta but often linked with it.

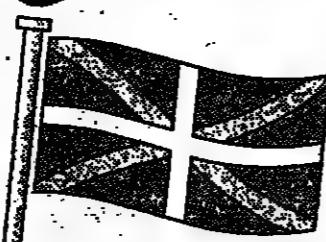
The important fact, Señor Ardanza says, is that society as a whole was involved in that agreement. It was signed by six parties, three of them nationalist and one socialist, in spite of deep differences between them in other ideological areas. It showed that the violent factions, and Eta were isolated, and were not the "spearhead" of society as Eta often claimed to be.

Señor Ardanza's confidence is borne out by other observers. There is less public support for pro-Eta demonstrations. People are now not afraid to argue with the movement's sympathisers, and businesses feel less pressure to give in to extortionary demands. However, Eta's bombing campaign continues, and its indiscriminate nature makes it increasingly hard to combat.

The underlying factor is the persistent nature of Basque nationalism. Señor Ardanza is a member of the Partido Nacional Vasco (PNV), the oldest nationalist party, and he, like most Basques, is a tenacious believer in the individuality and rights of the Basques which set them apart from other Spaniards. When I asked him whether he felt Spanish as well as Basque, he said he felt Basque but accepted that he was Spanish for administrative reasons.

Basques feel their individuality more strongly than other minorities in Spain, more even than the Catalans. They trace their language, Euskera, back to prehistoric times, well before such late-comers to the Iberian peninsula as the Romans. They point out that for much of Spanish history they had rights which allowed them to run a good part of their own affairs.

Eta is the extremist wing of this Basque nationalism, which sees the Basque Country, or Euskadi, extending not only to four Spanish provinces



Support for the bombing campaigns of the extreme nationalists is dropping, Peter Strafford reports

The Basques retain a proud independence, but there are signs that, with a brighter economic outlook,

and spoke in a debate on the Gulf. However, the party has so far refused to dissociate itself from Eta's campaign of terror and it describes Eta members as "patriots who have chosen to take up arms in defence of Basque rights".

Differences between the parties have been vigorously aired in the campaign for a regional election, to be held on Sunday. The present government is a coalition between the PNV and the Basque branch of the Spanish socialist party (PSOE). It was an unlikely partnership, given that the PNV is nationalist and conservative, while the PSOE is a national Spanish party which is often critical of Basque nationalism, but the two parties put their differences on one side to agree on a specific programme of policies, and have surprised the coalition's critics by proving effective.

Apart from Herri Batasuna, there are no important policy differences between the main parties. The results of the election will be significant, partly for the size of the Herri Batasuna vote — 17.5 per cent in 1986 — and partly for the relative strengths of the other parties. It is possible that the PNV (23.7 per cent in 1986) might abandon the coalition with the Socialists (22 per cent) and link instead with the two smaller nationalist parties, Eusko Alkartasuna (15.9 per cent) and Euskadiko Ezkerra (10.9 per cent).

The new government will face a much more promising situation than that of 1986. In the past four years the Basque Country has settled down politically, and embarked on a steady economic recovery. The statistics show the Basque economy growing at about 5 per cent in 1988 and 1989, compared with an average of 4.5 per cent for Spain as a whole; and the forecasts for this year are also for growth above the Spanish average. Unemployment is down, and close to the Spanish average of 15 per cent.

Señor Ardanza is adamant that there is no simple link between Eta terrorism and the Basque recession of recent years. The recession, he says, was part of a worldwide trend which hit the traditional heavy industries, such as iron, steel and shipbuilding, that have long been the heart of the Basque economy. Recovery is now under way, he says, as a result of a painful process of modernisation and, although it might be slowed down by the threat of terrorism, which deterred foreign investors, he believes it is solidly based.

The advent of the European single market in 1993 is an opportunity for the industrialists of the Basque Country which they now feel better equipped to seize. The Basques intend to make their mark.



Seeing off terror: José Antonio Ardanza, the Basque premier, at his official palace



PLAN EUSKADI-93'

THE BASQUE COUNTRY PREPARES ITS FUTURE



It is up to all the Basques to achieve Euskadi's complete integration in Europe by 1993.

The Basque Government and "Diputaciones Forales" (County Councils) have already got a special plan in motion to improve the structure of both transport and communications facilities and to achieve greater cohesion and social solidarity. The Special Europe 93 Plan envisages a series of improvements covering the railway system, motorways, high ways,

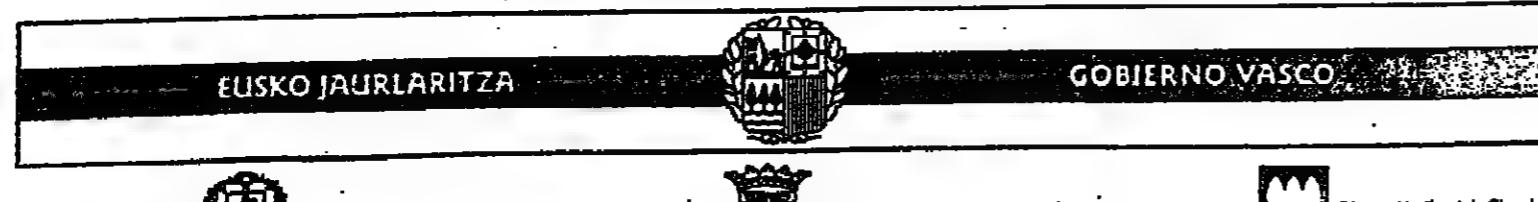
ports, airports and integrated transport centres. Its aim is to promote Euskadi's role as the strategic axis linking Spain with the rest of Europe.

Likewise, the Plan stresses an improvement of resources in the areas of telecommunications, office equipment and telematics, and the fulfilment of other important projects such as the creation of an industrial and commercial gas network in Euskadi, hydraulic works and environmental protection and

enrichment. But that's not all. It is the Basque Government's belief that a nation's economic prosperity is incompatible with situations of social inequality and discrimination. Because of this,

one of the objectives of the special plan is to fight against poverty through a series of measures including monetary aids, a welfare network and paying special attention to social hardship cases.

The countdown has already started. Euskadi's future is in our hands. Today.



If you are interested in receiving more information about the Euskadi 93' plan, please send us the following information:	
Name:	
Address:	
Population:	
Forward to the following address: Palacio de Ayuntamiento Euskadi, Secretaría General del Plan "Euskadi 93' Fray Francisco, 5, Vitoria-Gasteiz.	

The region's politicians have welcomed falling unemployment figures as the promise of benefits to come, but trade unionists have doubts. Harry Debelius writes

TIM BISHOP

Harder times ahead

The Basque economy is slowing down, but it has had four years on the upswing, and it is still expected to show a growth rate that would be the envy of many regions or nations. The latest official statistics, cover-

ing the first six months of 1990, point to a further decrease in unemployment, bringing the annual jobless rate down to about 15 per cent, compared with 22 per cent four years ago.

This is a remarkable con-

tract with a few years ago, when the Basque economy, dominated by heavy industries and hit by terrorism, was in recession. With regional elections due to be held on Sunday, incumbent politicians are predictably

optimistic, while businessmen are fine-tuning costs to prepare for the single European market, due at the end of 1992.

Trade unionists, still aching from the contraction that pared the Basque economy's traditional mainstays, shipbuilding and iron and steel, down to profitable size, are eyeing the decreasing unemployment figures with scepticism.

Economic indicators suggest that initial predictions for 1990 were too pessimistic, but residents of the Basque country are not so sure. A recent poll conducted in the region, the results of which were published by *El País*, the respected Madrid daily, this month, showed that only 32 per cent of the voters feel the economy is improving, while about 31 per cent think it is in worse shape than it was at the time of the last regional election in 1986.

According to the latest analysis drawn up by the Basque regional government's department of economy and planning, "the indicators of demand and activity for the first semester show that this year will not be as good as last. Nevertheless, the most recent evolution [of the economy] suggests that the average level of activity this year will be better than was anticipated in the first few months."

After the relative prosperity of 1986-1989, the Basque economy has entered a new stage, according to Javier García Egocheaga, formerly deputy premier of the Basque government with responsibility for economic affairs and now a merchant banker.

"Growth will be slower," he says. "Inflation will be worse, profits will be reduced and there will be less of an increase in employment."

Looking into the near future, he says 1991 will be a difficult year. "The competition is already here. Tari-

ffs and duties have been

whittled away. But this crisis

will not last as long as that of

1976, and it will be less

serious. The processes resulting

from the economic unification

of Europe will have

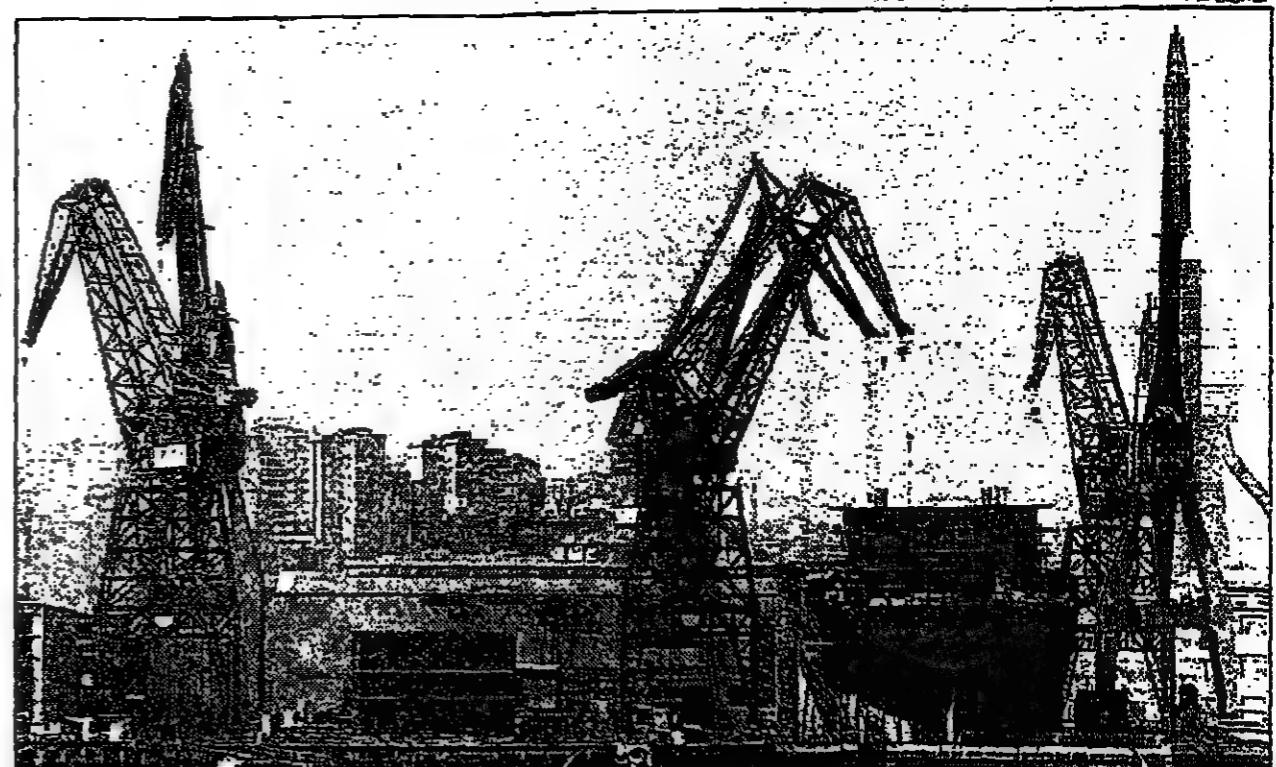
considerable influence. There

will be mergers, and it will be

easier to see which companies

have problems."

That is where Banco de Inversiones y Servicios Fin-



Traditional tasks: shipbuilders are some of the workers who have suffered from painful industrial contraction

(Basque Homeland and Liberty), the violent separatist movement, is no longer capable of exerting serious influence on the course of events. "In everyday life, people are fed up with terrorism rather than cowed by it, and they see it is not restricted to the Basque country."

He fears that reports of

terrorist activities have given a false picture of the region.

"The way of life here does not at all correspond to the image of a country involved in a civil war," he says.

Virginia Uriagereka considers other factors prevent investment, among them the high costs of financing new or additional operations in Spain. "It's going against the European current," she says.

more firms, "Señor Egocheaga

says.

Virginia Uriagereka, the director

of the industry department

of the Bilbao Chamber of

Commerce, agrees with his

analysis. "There is a strong

tendency toward other sectors,

especially services and small

industry with more technology. I think this is a positive

tendency."

Señor Egocheaga says

Basque businessmen deserve

credit for sticking it out

through the hard times of the

immediate post-Franco period:

"Terrorism was on the rise

until 1980. Now it is

falling, in terms of social

approval. The average

Basque entrepreneur did not

leave."

He believes that ETA

is not the only threat to the

Basque region, adding: "The

Basque region became

prosperous on the back of

Spain's coal and steel trade

with Britain. So it was logical

that the region's first bank,

Banco de Bilbao, founded in

1857, opened its first branch

outside the Basque Country in

London rather than Madrid.

Almost 150 years later, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBV),

the result of a merger between

Banco de Bilbao and its

smaller Basque rival, Banco

de Vizcaya, has an advantage

over other Spanish banks that

goes back to these origins.

With about \$3 billion in

deposits on June 30, BBV is

not only Spain's biggest pri-

vately owned bank, it is also

the bank with the greatest

number of branches in the

rest of Europe. There were 51

at the end of 1989, out of a

national and international

network of 2,685 branches.

Economic analysts consider

this European projection a

great advantage at a time

when the EC is on the point of

deregulating banking and

financial services. Indeed, it

has given BBV the reputation

of being Spain's only truly

European bank.

BBV, Spain's largest national

bank, joined in a competition

for deposits in March

that was begun by another of

Spain's large national banks,

Banco de Santander, last year.

BBV directors hope their new

high-yield accounts, with interest rates of up to 13.5 per

cent, plus car lotteries and cash prizes for new account holders, will increase the number of customers by 300,000, and deposits by more than £1 billion, by the end of the year.

The competition is undoubtedly increasing, but directors are convinced that BBV is in a better position to cut costs.

The 30,000 employees currently on the payroll are being reduced by about 1,000 a year through early retirement, voluntary redundancy and other similar means. In addition, BBV sold Plus Ultra, one of the six biggest insurance companies in the country, to Britam's Norwich Union for £200 million in June.

Directors also say that, unlike other Spanish banks, BBV will not have to trim its single-market expansion plans, in preparation for Europe's single currency, because of the Gulf tension.

JANE MONAHAN

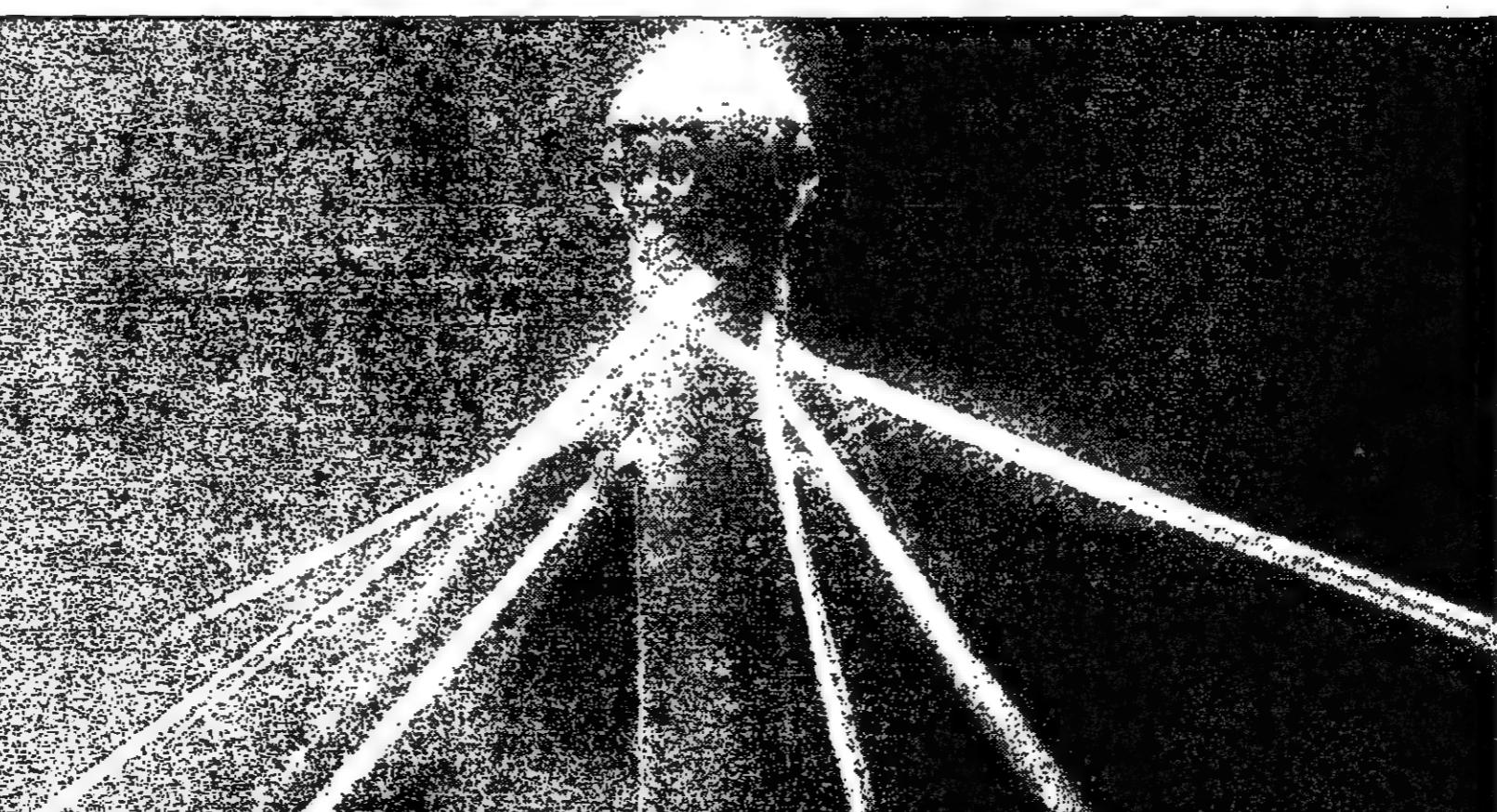
Merger maintains bank's advantage

THE Basque region became prosperous on the back of Spain's coal and steel trade with Britain. So it was logical that the region's first bank, Banco de Bilbao, founded in 1857, opened its first branch outside the Basque Country in London rather than Madrid. Almost 150 years later, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBV), the result of a merger between Banco de Bilbao and its smaller Basque rival, Banco de Vizcaya, has an advantage over other Spanish banks that goes back to these origins.

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Economic analysts consider this European projection a great advantage at a time

EVER MORE EUSKADI



EVOLUTION
OF THE TOTAL
BUDGETS OF THE
BASQUE
GOVERNMENT:

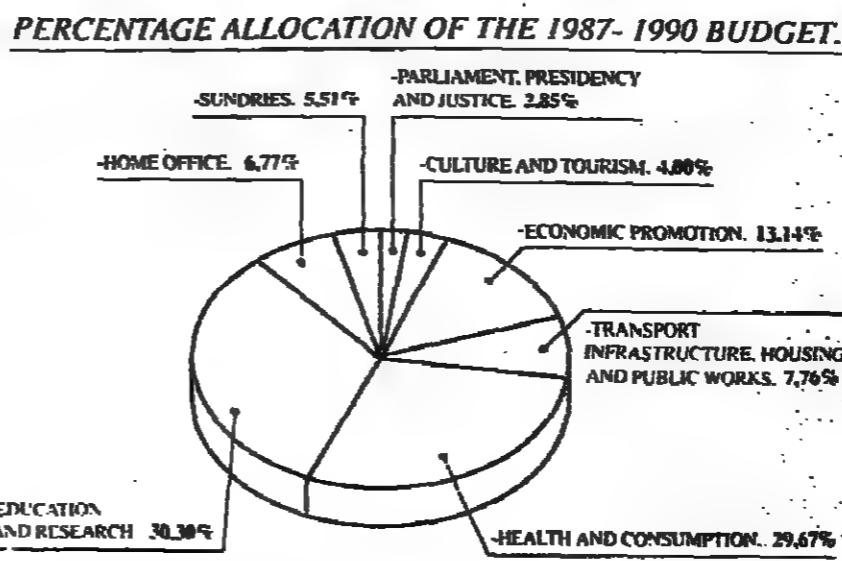
184,440
Million Pts.

301,095
Million Pts.

382,860
Million Pts.

425,900
Million Pts.

PERCENTAGE ALLOCATION OF THE 1987- 1990 BUDGET



Euskadi has grown up. Each year, our economic resources are increasing. And so, does our capacity for developing our own projects.

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Ogasun eta Finantza Saria Departamento de Hacienda y Finanzas

FOCUS

BASQUE COUNTRY/3

TIM BISHOP

Farewell smokestacks, and hello technology

AS I watched container after container of automobile components being hoisted aboard a ship in Bilbao, a man who was supervising the loading said: "They say cars are manufactured in Valencia or some other Spanish city. That may be so, but they are made in the Basque Country."

It was an exaggeration, but not far off the mark. As well as the iron and steel mills and shipyards which were the mainstay of Basque industry until recent years, there have always been numerous relatively small factories in the region, turning out an astonishing variety of parts, most of them precision-tooled. Today there are even more small manufacturers, and they are more technologically minded.

The Company for Industrial Promotion and Conversion (SPRI), an autonomous regional agency, is encouraging that tendency. SPRI was created in 1981, modelled on the Welsh and Scottish development agencies. Its initial task was to aid in the industrial conversion of companies which were not included in the central government's reindustrialisation plans.

However, "in 1984, we got out of conversion," says Enrique Marco-Gardoki, the secretary general of SPRI, at his headquarters in Bilbao. "Now we promote small and medium-sized firms; stimulate innovation in industry, whether in products or techniques; foment the creation of companies, and encourage the internationalisation of businesses as a way of improving the image of Basque industry."

Guillermo Barredo, the international programme director of SPRI, says: "We are known for smokestack industries, but we have more to offer. We are up-to-date, and attuned to the latest industrial technology."

Assistance from SPRI is available to foreign as well as Basque businessmen and investors. SPRI helps them take advantage of such opportunities as tax incentives, special low-interest loans, subsidies for creating employment in depressed areas, investment grants and incentive payments for investing in research and development programmes.

The conversion effort, which mainly affected heavy industries, is just about completed; and, while it was tough on fibby industry, it did not sound the death knell for all big factories.

The old industries are transforming to survive

British and Basque steelmakers are showing mutual confidence by investing in plants to complement their respective activities. This month, British Steel bought 45 per cent of the privately owned José María Aristrain steel mills with installations near the Basque cities of San Sebastián and Bilbao and in Madrid and Barcelona.

British Steel reportedly paid the Aristrain family, which retains control of the company, 25 billion pesetas (£132 million). With the acquisition of a significant share of Aristrain, British Steel is said to be the most important European producer of structural steel.

In another operation, Altos Hornos de Vizcaya (AHV), Spain's second biggest steelmaker, recently bought 50 per cent of Bishopton Steel International, the British company. Earlier this

"There is a good pool of skilled labour here and there are some encouraging initiatives"

year, AHV purchased a one-third interest in Cartill, the Swiss firm, which is strong in Italy. AHV has also established a sales company in Portugal this year.

AHV is a prime example of conversion that works. A steelmaker which in 1984 employed more than 10,000 people, it has slimmed down and switched from making beams to specialty steels. Last year it showed a profit of 4.4 billion pesetas.

"There were two phases," says Ignacio Agreda, the company spokesman, in his office at the AHV factory in Barracaldo, one of its four locations in the Basque Country. "The technological conversion has been completed; the labour part finishes this year. By the end of the year we will be down to 6,500 employees. That is ahead of schedule, thanks to a compensation package which makes it possible for a man to retire at the age of 55. We have

invested 62 billion pesetas in conversion since 1984. One of our objectives is specialisation. We make such things as sheet steel — including stamped shapes and bands — and steel tubing. We are the only producers of factory-painted sheet steel in Spain."

"Now that the problem of oxidation has been overcome, steel is making a comeback. Now they, use our painted, stamped steel sheets in roofing, and car manufacturers and makers of household appliances are ordering pre-painted steel. It cuts costs for them, and the bonded paint gives a tougher finish."

"Altos Hornos has a 45 billion peseta (£237 million) investment plan to improve the technical characteristics of the plant," he adds. "We are now doing continuous casting, a primordial step for lamination. There are only 15 places in Europe which do that."

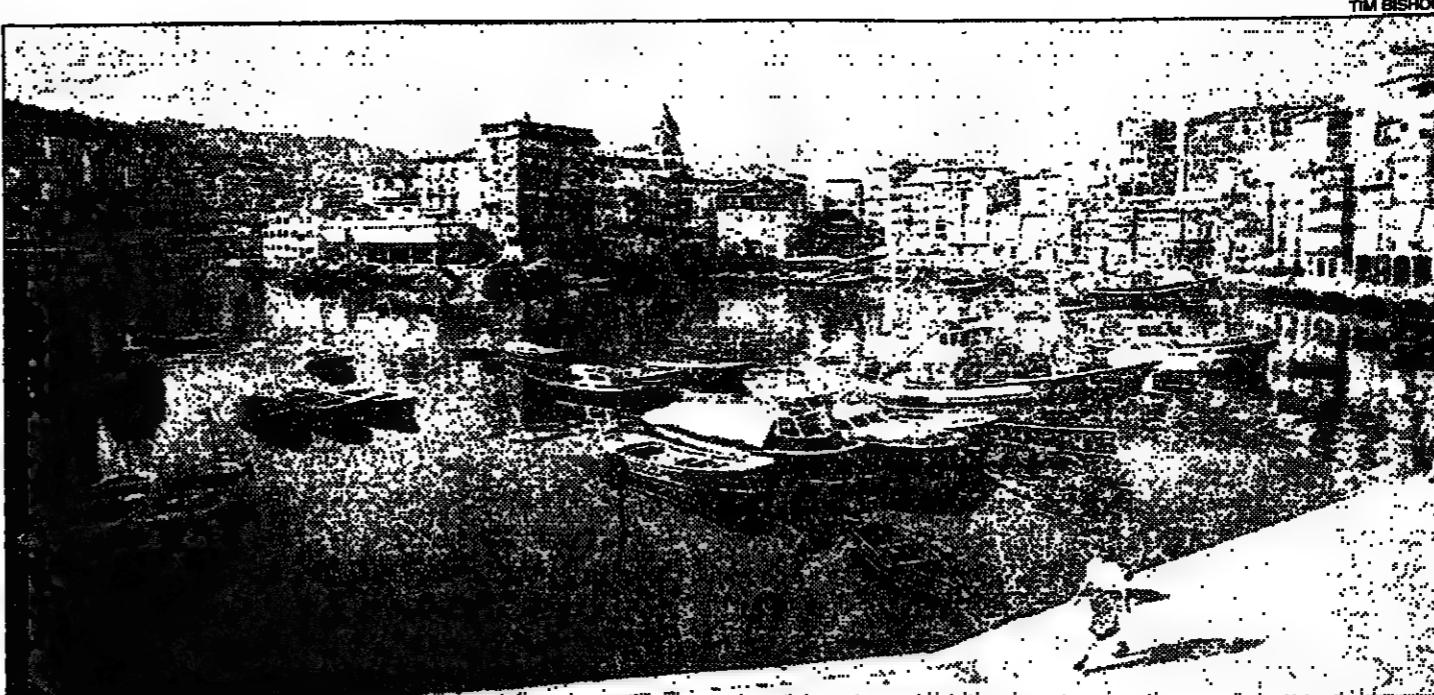
AHV expects to export 40,000 tons, mainly of galvanised products, to Britain this year.

While others see the silver lining, Javier Azola, the cautious regional manager of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBV), the biggest bank in both the Basque Country and Spain, is still observing the cloud over the economy. "Right now, industry in the Basque Country is stagnant, showing less growth than the Spanish average," he says.

"There is a good pool of skilled labour and there are some encouraging initiatives, like the decision to build Rolls-Royce engines here. Bilbao has the largest port in Spain and excellent infrastructures. But the outlook is not optimistic. There is a lack of competitiveness resulting from deficient productivity. We still have a lot of problems in basic industries."

However, he sees a bright future for food processing. He says: "Prospects are good for Basque Rioja wines provided they maintain a competitive price-quality ratio. The Fagor (home appliance) group could be a leader in Europe; they have just signed an agreement with Thomson. In special steels, another area which is holding its own, some firms have made good investments. As far as machine-tools are concerned, the Basques will be making more versatile machinery, with a greater technological input; it will not be super-machinery but it will have a place on the market."

HARRY DEBELIUS



Attractive fishing port: Bermeo is just one of a string of picturesque small towns nestling under green hills and mountains on the Basque coast

Off the package trails

Harry Debelius reports on the three cities, food and countryside that are attracting the more discerning tourist to the region

While tourism is slipping elsewhere in Spain, it is on the rise in Euskadi, the Basques' name for their region. "We've had a 5 per cent increase in visitors this year compared with the same period last year," says Elias Elorza, the region's director for tourism.

He calculates that 1.3 million people visited the Basque Country in 1989, and says that tourism accounted for 2 per cent of the GDP. About three-quarters of the visitors were Spaniards, and the French were the most numerous foreign tourists.

Speaking at his office in Vitoria, the seat of the Basque government, Señor Elorza says: "We promote visits by independent travellers. We don't have room for mass tourism. There are a lot of us living in a relatively small area. Massive visits of tourists would exert unacceptable pressure on our resources."

There are only 13,000 hotel beds and room for 10,000 campers in the whole Basque Country, he says. "The strength of the peseta has adversely affected Spanish tourism, but perhaps it has had less effect here because those who come to visit us are rarely package holiday tourists."

"This is a different kind of country, with closer relations with Europe than other parts of Spain, and a milder climate. They come

because they are interested in our ethnology, in gastronomy and in

in Europe chose to sit out the first

world war there. The belle époque,

which ended in Paris in 1914,

persisted here for a few more

years.

Three-quarters of a century

before that, in 1845, Queen Isabel II of Spain had begun a royal tradition of "taking the waters" in San Sebastián in the summer, a tradition reinforced by successive heads of the Spanish state right up to General Franco, the late dictator.

Bilbao has a lot of character,"

Señor Elorza says, "just as Liverpool and Manchester have.

It has a university, great museums.

It has the only Gauguin in

Spain. It is a great city for

congresses. It is linked by air with

London, Frankfurt, Paris, Geneva

and Brussels, and next spring it

will also have regular flights to and

from Milan and Rome."

San Sebastián, on the other hand, is a cultural mecca, and one of Spain's most beautiful resorts. The city (Donostia in Basque) benefited from two calamities. The first was

a fire in 1813 after a battle during

the Peninsular War, which de-

stroyed all but 35 of the city's 600

buildings. The second was when the

holders of the biggest fortunes

San Sebastian of its exclusive and romantic cachet.

Vitoria, inland and over the mountains that crowd the coast, offers a flatter, more austere landscape and a well preserved medieval quarter. It prides itself on its link with the Duke of Wellington, commemorating the battle he won there with a monument in one of its main squares.

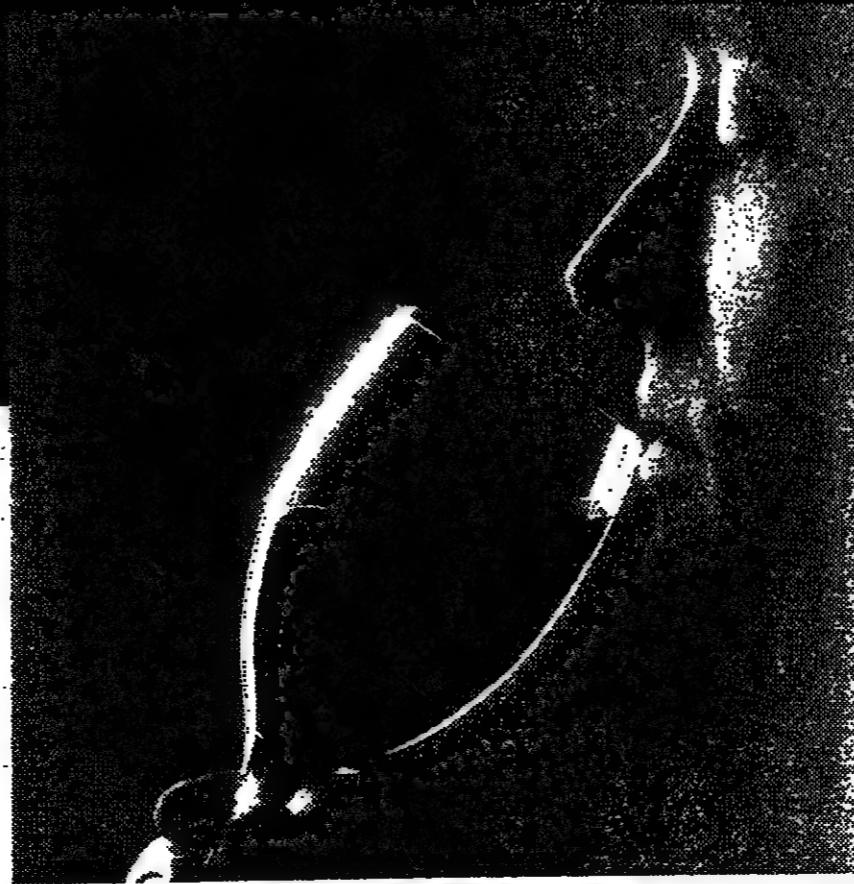
In addition to its cities, the Basque Country is characterised by rolling green hills and mountains, where the *baserris*, the traditional Basque farmhouse, is everywhere to be seen, by a string of beaches and fishing ports, and some fine food anywhere.

The Basques pride themselves on their cooking. A typical institution in Basque cities is the Gastronomic Society, a men-only club where members take turns preparing meals for their fellow gastronomes. Many classic French dishes are Basque in origin, not least *coquilles St Jacques*, discovered by pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela.

"There are more stars in the Michelin guide for the Basque Country than for any part of Spain," Señor Elorza says.

The region's hotel-bed capacity will increase by 15 per cent when the current construction and remodelling of existing hotels is completed at a total cost of 2 billion pesetas (£11 million).

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RIOJA ALAVESA WINES

Great survivors trace history back to the Stone Age

EFFORTS are often made to link the Basques, and their unusual language, Euskera, to other peoples round the world, and find out where they came from. However, all the indications are that they have been in northern Spain and southwestern France since the Stone Age.

Studies of their blood have revealed a significant difference from that of other Europeans. Excavation of prehistoric tombs, some going back to 10,000 BC, has uncovered bones similar to those of present-day Basques.

They have shown extraordinary powers of survival. Alone of the peoples of western Europe, they speak a language which pre-dates those of the Indo-Europeans. They have seen the occupation of their lands by Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Franks and Arabs; and have emerged still speaking their own language. Basque historians insist



Guernica: discussion tree

Civil War and Franco's dictatorship were agonising for the Basques. In 1932 the short-lived republic granted self-government to Vizcaya and Guipúzcoa, and they sided with it in the civil war. This led to the notorious demolition by German bombers in 1936 of Guernica (Gernika in Basque), a town which had symbolic significance for the Basques as the place where elders would gather under a tree to discuss provincial affairs. The remains of the ancient tree-trunk are displayed in a memorial.

Franco tried to wipe out the national consciousness of the Basques, banning any public use of Euskera. In 1979, after his death, autonomy was once again granted. The language, now understood by only 25 per cent of the population, is being revived.

PETER STRAFFORD

Juan Sebastian Elcano took over from Magellan after the latter's death in the Philippines and completed the first circumnavigation of the globe.

Tensions began between Madrid and the Basque provinces when centralist policies were adopted in the 19th century, threatening the Basque, and other, *fueras*. In the two Carlist wars Basques fought alongside supporters of Don Carlos, the unsuccessful pretender to the Spanish throne. In 1876, the *fueras* of Vizcaya, Guipúzcoa and Alava were finally abolished.

The Basque nationalist movement was founded soon after that, by Sabino de Arana Goiri, who coined the word *Euskadi* as the name for the modern Basque Country. This coincided with the industrial revolution, principally in Bilbao, which led to the Basque Country becoming one of the most advanced and prosperous parts of Spain, and to close trading relations with Britain.

Industrialisation also, however, caused an influx of non-Basques, and Arana advocated a return to the Basques' rural origins and the preservation of traditional values.

The Spanish Civil War and Franco's dictatorship were agonising for the Basques. In 1932 the short-lived republic granted self-government to Vizcaya and Guipúzcoa, and they sided with it in the civil war. This led to the notorious demolition by German bombers in 1936 of Guernica (Gernika in Basque), a town which had symbolic significance for the Basques as the place where elders would gather under a tree to discuss provincial affairs. The remains of the ancient tree-trunk are displayed in a memorial.

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PETER STRAFFORD



A sense of Basque heritage: Eduardo Chillida's *Combs of the Wind* at San Sebastian reach out their metal arms to the sea

Portraying the soul of Euskadi

Eduardo Chillida's haunting evocation of his homeland in metal sculpture has made him a national hero, John Russell Taylor writes

In the 20th century it is not unknown for artists to become national heroes and even have political office thrust upon them: think of Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia. Fortunately for his art, no doubt, Eduardo Chillida, the sculptor who now has a retrospective exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London, has not quite achieved that status. However, there is no doubt in the Basque Country (*Euskadi*) he is a national hero.

This is an easy, companionable sort of celebrity. In his native San Sebastián everyone recognises him and sees him as a national treasure. He, typically, denies that this has anything to do with his international standing as a sculptor.

Much more important, he insists, is the fact that once upon a time he played in goal for the local football team, one of the foremost in Spain.

Chillida is being modest. In his art he began, and has remained remarkably close to, the Basque experience. Many of his most important works are not only in

metal, but in such traditionally unappealing metals as iron and steel. Chillida is certainly aware of precedents in the sculpture of Julio González and Pablo Picasso, Spanish predecessors he has every reason to revere. But more to the point is the Basques' reputation as the smiths and metalworkers of the Iberian peninsula, a niche they have occupied at least since Roman times.

The other way that Chillida shows his closeness to the Basque experience is in his intense and unmistakable response to the Basque landscape. His shapes are sometimes almost organic, like the twisted branches of a gnarled tree. More often, perhaps, they seem to reflect the characteristic elements of the landscape in northern Spain, its cliffs and crags, its abrupt plateaux.

The exhibition at the Hayward (Chillida's first proper show in

Britain after nearly 40 years of international fame) shows numerous pieces which were not too heavy, or too firmly anchored to their sites, to be brought to London. However, there are also four pieces, represented by drawings, models and photographs, which can be fully appreciated only in their natural habitat in or near the Basque country.

For all of them, the place is vitally important. On the coast hard by San Sebastián, for instance, twisted bars of iron, *The Combs of the Wind*, sprout from the rocks like sturdy plants clawing life out of the granite, or hands reaching towards the sea — which is as much part of the Basques' heritage as the metal locked in their rocks.

On the plateau in Vitoria, the Basque capital, *Square of Basque Rights* is a sort of labyrinth, dug down into the ground like some

primeval Basque dwelling or the galleries of a mine, with a metal monument at its heart. Sadly, it has had to be temporarily boarded in after a child fell from it and injured himself; but Chillida has been asked to see how it could be made safer without losing its visual impact.

Gernika is the name which above all symbolises the crisis of the Basques, because of its destruction by German bombers during the civil war. In the town there is an extraordinary "hinged" wall, *Our Father's House*, built in concrete and with a great bite out of the middle to let the light of life stream through. Significantly, it is orientated towards the site of the ancient tree under which the elders of the province of Vizcaya used to meet and deliberate.

At Gijón, finally, just along the

coast in Asturias, *In Praise of the Horizon* is an extraordinary concrete horseshoe held aloft on the edge of a precipitous cliff, half of it an eroded outcrop and half a coastal defence of unknown purpose.

The extraordinary thing about Chillida as a popular figure is that his work is almost entirely abstract. Not that abstraction itself presents such a problem in Spain as in most other parts of western Europe. In the last years of Franco's rule it was a group of abstract painters, the so-called Cuencia School, which came to prominence, and was rallied at by dissident pop artists, photo-realists and such.

The key to Chillida's abstraction and its astonishing popularity must be its closeness to the Basque soul. Even from another country his work looks impressive; on the spot they overwhelm. They manage, through art, to make the Basque language comprehensible to all. By being intensely local they become universal. No wonder Chillida is a Basque national hero.

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The Basque Country Technology Park is northern Spain's biggest technology centre, and the closest to Europe's network of Technology Parks.

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The Park is guaranteed financial aid on the best terms from the Basque Country's public institutions, and has been awarded financial incentives by the Provincial Council of Bizkaia.

The First Phase, 32,000 square metres of building and office space equipped with all kinds of general and specific services, is already under way.

Office space and other facilities are available now for hire, with the chance of an option to buy after twelve years.

THE BASQUE COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY PARK

Applicants are screened for admission.



The first of January 1993, as a consequence of the Single Market coming into force, Europe will take the last and definitive steps towards the creation of a Common Market where people, goods, services and capital will circulate freely, with no border restrictions.

The Basque Country, one of the oldest nations in Europe, has taken an important part since the beginning of this process, in order to build a Single Europe based on respect and consideration for the individual personalities and idiosyncrasies of all the different countries and nationalities that form it. Euskadi, aware of its responsibility as one of the main initiators in the Communities of Europe, would like to promote its competitive ability to play a role, from a position of equality, in the process towards the construction of the new Europe.

Only in this way, will we contribute in a positive sense to the general economic welfare without being a drawback to this process.

Today, Basque society has restructured its traditional industrial sectors and is working with renewed enthusiasm to successfully face the challenge of 1993.

Adding the initiatives and performances developed by the enterprises and workers in Euskadi, Basque authorities have launched an outstanding plan called "Euskadi en la Europa de 1993", 400,000 million pesetas are to finance various projects in order to achieve two urgent objectives before 1993:

- To endow Euskadi with the necessary infrastructure needed for integration into the single European Market, thus guaranteeing its ability to compete.
- To achieve good social cohesion and solidarity.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Improvement of the transport and communications infrastructure is essential for the future economic development of the Autonomous Basque Community. It is necessary to strengthen the strategic location that the Basque Country already enjoys as an important European link with Spain and Portugal.

- To achieve this objective, the plan looks at a number of actions in order to improve the present communications infrastructure: Highways, roads, ports, airports and any other means of transport. At the same time, telecommunications will be developed with strict priority.

In the same way it will pay special attention to the following areas:

- The industrial and commercial gas works in Euskadi.
- Hydraulics improvements.
- protection and enrichment of the environment.

ACHIEVEMENT OF BETTER SOCIAL COHESION AND SOLIDARITY

The economic increase that is to be promoted over the next few years, and the profits expected from the Single European Market cannot be allowed to affect just certain sectors of society to the detriment of the marginal ones.

Therefore, the Basque Government is determined to achieve a better income redistribution policy, to offer the same opportunities to everybody, and to definitively achieve a better social cohesion and solidarity.

In order to meet these objectives, the Europe '93 Plan considers an integral programme with the following main actions:

- Paying special attention to those who have no income at all, providing a minimum income per family.
- Economic help for urgent social situations.
- Creation of a social services network.
- To assign resources for sectors like education and professional training, health and housing.

Euskadi is facing this new decade with great expectation, aware of the historical factors which have positioned our country in a comfortable place within Europe: an exceptional geographical location, a different managerial tradition, important and efficient human resources, and above all, a collective consciousness of a millennial nation that would like to protect its culture and economic identity.

However, it is its aim to share this inheritance with all regions and nationalities that form the new Europe.

Finally, Europe '93 tries to prepare the ground work on which the Basque Country will have to build, to be included in the economic and social welfare that a United Europe represents.

As Iker

Signed: Iñaki Azkuna,
GENERAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 17 October, 1990.



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Joan de la Mata

ARTS

BRIEFING

GALLERIES

Playing them in

IN THE New Year, Sir Peter Hall will be presenting two plays (as yet unnamed) in the Playhouse Theatre. If all goes well, this could become a permanent home for the company bearing his name. That would be logical because, last week, Hall split with Duncan Weldon's Triumph Productions after the impresario could not guarantee him house-room in any single theatre. "I think that if you are going to build up an audience, you need to be identified with one place," says Hall. "Two back-to-back plays at the Playhouse will let us explore the possibility of more."

Next cause

MORE news of Edward Heath's benefice. The former prime minister is to organise a charity rock concert to raise money on behalf of Salisbury Cathedral, which requires £25 million for restoration work. The rock show is to be held next summer at Longleaf House in Wiltshire. It is understood that Paul McCartney and Bob Geldof are among those Heath plans to approach. Is there any chance of the former Tory leader joining the stars for a jam on stage? "Only if the line-up lends itself to Mr Heath's musical style," comes the word from his private office.

Last chance

IT HAS been some time since mime meant just white-faced clowns. Battersea Arts Centre has been showcasing the change with the month-long Festival of British Mime and Visual Theatre, which ends with a gala evening on Sunday. The performance includes the innovative, the well-established and the eccentric. Particularly recommended are Richard McDougall, who combines mime with variety act magic, and David Glass and Peta Lily in their solo acts. Gary Barber is the compere. Details on 071-223 2223.

ALBUMS: JAZZ AND ROCK

Intimate eloquence from a great soloist

WHEN Ruby Braff appeared in London this summer, he was clearly in less than perfect health. The performances of his trio, however, were just about flawless. This was chamber jazz at its most polished. Braff's corner supported only by the guitar of Howard Alden and the bass of Frank Tate.

Braff's Elegance offers studio versions of much of the material heard at Pizza on the Park, with Jack Leesberg standing in for Tate. The album title, incidentally, comes from one of Braff's admirers, Whitney Balliett of *The New Yorker*. Braff certainly lives up to the description: Once ridiculed as an anachronistic copy of Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke, he is among the handful of great soloists active today.

One reason for his shadowy reputation is the smoothness and sweetness of his playing. Nothing is forced or hurried. At a time when vibrato seems

to be going out of fashion, Braff clings on to the old qualities.

His admirers would probably agree that his best work has occurred in larger groups. The recordings which first made his name, for example, were made by the septet led by trombonist Vic Dickenson. There is plenty more compelling evidence on *Them There Eyes*, two 1976 sessions by a quintet and sextet.

Braff is reunited with Vic Dickenson in the six-piece, while Dick Katz and Jimmy Rowles share the piano duties. The opening number is a tame piece of kitsch, "Swinging on a Star". Nobody else would get

away with it, yet from the moment Braff begins his solo, tracing his elegant needlework, all reservations can be put to one side.

The cult of Billie Holiday shows no sign of diminishing just yet. The tribute by Abbey Lincoln, recorded live in New York, has none of the usual mawkishness. "Strange Fruit", "Lover Man" and "What A Little Moonlight Can Do" are all given robust readings, though the 10-minute version of Mal Waldron's "Soul Eyes" is an unwelcome diversion. Lincoln's voice has always been unpredictable. In this context, the quirks add colour.

The Holiday who appears on many a bed-sit and wine bar poster is the pathetic drug addict of the Fifties. The woman celebrated by British singer Val Wiseman comes from an earlier, happier and more artistically successful period. *Lady Sings The Blues* trips through 18 songs. The recording quality seems unusually diffuse, but if Wiseman does not always match Holiday in charisma (and who does?), there are exemplary performances from Digby Fairweather, Al Gay, and Brian Lemon.

CLIVE DAVIS



Ruby Braff: chamber jazz at its most polished

LIKE some pale, unearthly shade, the Sisters Of Mercy supreme Andrew Eldritch continues to chart a mysterious passage through the rock netherworld, occasionally surfacing with a group that he perpetually reinvents while drifting through the limbo between album and video. The bassist and Morticia Adams lookalike, Patricia Morrison seems to have been vapourised since the release of *Floodland* and its accompanying singles in 1987-88. So complete is her current absence from the rock arena, in her stead, Eldritch has assembled a new team of leathered-up rockers including the former Siouxsie Spunk propagandist, Tony

minimalism with an outrageously cool lyrical swagger. In a similar vein, Eldritch applies his baritone roar to the desolate imagery of "Detonation Boulevard" and "Doctor Jeep", songs powered by low-slung riffs and liberally laced with cracked visions of modern Americana and fragile biker-chic. In a more reflective mood, "Something Fast" and its companion piece, "I Was Wrong", utilise acoustic guitar and delineate the personal perspectives of a man who has perhaps travelled closer than most to his own vision of hell.

The Charlatics have hardly had time to travel anywhere in the short duration of their existence, and their astonishingly successful debut, *Some Friendly*, is a weightless fund of wispy musical naivety. Despite the alarmingly high quotient of fluffy pop melody evident in songs like "White Shirt", the band from Northwich in Cheshire has been relentlessly lionised in the music press. Thanks to their swift and effortless ascendancy they are now said to represent the best hope for the new order of Nineties pop emerging from the dance-rock crossover movement pioneered by bands like the Stone Roses, Happy Mondays et al. If so, the future looks bleak. In common with those groups, the Charlatics boast a singer, Tim Burgess, with an outstandingly insipid and characterless voice. Their musical manifesto is a backward-looking mish-mash of retro-psychadelia, bereft of backbone, and propped up by an archaic organ sound the like of which has not been heard since Rick Wright's work on Pink Floyd's 1969 *Ummagumma*.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 51 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have

sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mastered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards

and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

U2

Bono once remarked: "We started writing our own songs because we couldn't play anybody else's." In their search for a style with which they felt comfortable, the four Dublin schoolfriends hit on an unlikely distillation of post-punk arena-rock evangelism which reached its apogee with the release of *The Joshua Tree* in 1987, the year when they wrested the title of "world's greatest rock act" from the previous incumbent, Bruce Springsteen. Several fine albums preceded that eventual breakthrough, notably *War* (1983) with its stirring roll-call of anthems ("Sunday Bloody Sunday", "New Year's Day", "40") and *The Unforgettable Fire* (1984), a vital staging post in the establishment of the group's epic tradition. Having struck gold, they finally started to play other people's songs. Versions of Lennon and McCartney's "Helter Skelter" and Dylan's "All Along The Watchtower" are captured with vivid intensity on *Rattle And Hum* (1988), the live album which suggests a belated dig for blues and soul roots.

NEXT WEEK: Tom Waits, Whitesnake

VAN HALEN

The heavy metal genre has thrown up many number of virtuosos, but only one genius: Eddie Van Halen, who remains the most visionary rock guitarist since Jimi Hendrix. Though he was not the first to utilise the technique of hammering on harmonics with his right (i.e. picking) hand, Van Halen exploited and popularised the style like no one else before him, thereby raising the level of electric guitar playing to a new level of expertise and influencing a generation of players such as Yngwie Malmsteen and Steve Vai. Van Halen's most celebrated solo is on Michael Jackson's hit "Beat It", but his best work occurs on his (and his brother Alex's) group's debut, *Van Halen* (1978), and on 1984's *1984*. The latter, which includes the hits "Jump" and "Panama", was the last Van Halen album to feature vocalist David Lee Roth and is a recording which virtually defines a strand of high-class, spectacle rock. With Sammy Hagar replacing Roth, the band went on to even greater success with *Curb*, a US No 1 in 1988.

DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES

CHANGE OF SEASON

THE NEW ALBUM CASSETTE CD

Includes the single "SO CLOSE"

ON TOUR NOW

DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES

Will be making personal appearances to sign copies of "Change of Season" at:

HMV 21 Market Street, Manchester
Friday 26th October

HMV 129 Princes Street, Edinburgh
Tuesday 30th October

BETWEEN 1.30 AND 2.30 PM

HMV 129 Princes Street, Edinburgh

IN CONCERT

Crowded hours of the British empire

Alistair Hicks on a British evocation of the Raj and two 20th-century artists at the Whitechapel

ALTHOUGH *The Raj: India and the British 1600-1947* is advertised as the National Portrait Gallery's largest-ever exhibition, there is still not enough space to do the subject justice. The visitor is herded through partitioned corridors and galleries. The sense of enclosure is heightened by an almost Victorian clutter. Everything is mixed together: pictures lie on top of books, and miniatures are projected in front of arrangements of armour, clothes and textiles. Yet this is a magnificent show.

One is constantly disappointed, though. Where is the luxurious interior of the sub-continent? Where are the splendid jewels of the various empires? Are we shown any deep understanding of the way of life of either the British or the Indians? In fact, these are the very frustrations of which countless writers and critics have complained throughout the centuries. India has always been tantalisingly aloof, and the exhibition does give a succession of revealing glimpses, often when one least expects them.

Was *The Raj* a complete joke? In the last corridor, a famous Cartier Bresson photograph shows Pandit Nehru and Lady Mountbatten roaring with laughter outside Government House in 1948. Mountbatten himself maintains a dignified smirk. The image, however, was only added as an afterthought and does not dispel the effect of scenes of bodies lying in the streets after riots, of the bedecked facade of paternal occupation in the form of the Fourth Earl of Minto (Viceroy of India at the beginning of this century), and of Gandhi's legendary salt march.

Surviving white servants of the Raj will probably not be too impressed with the exhibition, but the organisers have been remarkably objective. A level of criticism is sustained, but there is little anachronistic moralising. The Indian Mutiny is the dramatic focus of the exhibition, as it

Seebull Nolde Foundation collection. Only a couple of dozen are on loan, but they set a standard that very few could match.

In the past, McKeever has disappointed the high expectations of him. Since 1973, when he had exhibitions at the ICA and the Ikon Gallery, he has received considerable public support both in Britain and in Germany. Until recently, however, he has failed to assimilate earlier conceptual ideas into a more pictorial and Romantic approach.

The show concentrates on the work of the past 13 years. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he continued his experiments with photographs, laying them on top of canvas and painting over most of them but leaving untouched vistas. He constantly suffered in comparison to Anselm Kiefer. Works such as "Beside the Bramble Ditch" and "Earth of the Slumbering and Liquid Trees" just proved messy, while bolder compositions were too obvious.

He has long been enjoying the diptych formula to contrast photograph with paint, but his more recent diptychs are more subtle. "Tribute" (1985-88) and "Under the Skin" (1989-1990) do not rely on blatant clashes of style or technique. There are strong references to American and European work of the 1950s and 1960s, but the artist at last seems to have found more room for himself. The photographic background has gradually been obliterated and even disappeared.

He aspires to painting as an extension of nature. He is certainly getting closer to the Daniel Burnet maxims which he quotes: "It rains, it snows, it paints."

The Raj: India and the British 1600-1947 The National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0053), Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-6 and Sun 2-6, until March 17.

Emile Nolde: *The Unpainted Pictures*; Ian McKeever: *The Whitechapel Art Gallery*, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 0107), Tues-Sun 11-5, Wed 11-8 until December 2.



Epitome of the culture clash: Sir Joseph Noel Paton's "In Memoriam"

IN CONCERT

Black satire that chickens out

THEATRE

Mein Kampf: Farce Riverside Studios

WHY is it not more reassuring to learn from the programme that George Tabori's black comedy won every award in Austria and has "recently become the most performed contemporary play in the German-speaking theatre"? After all, it treats the young, unsuccessful Hitler with even less respect than Chaplin treated the mature, successful one in *The Great Dictator*. It shows him as an aggressive nerd, a vindictive twerp, dimly anti-Semitic from his slimy entrance to his murderous exit; and it does so with great imaginative brio.

Yet this is the trouble. In the same programme Tabori says that only those who recognise his traits in themselves "can overcome a Hitler". That is surely true, for German, English or any other audiences. To see evil as alien, to imply that Hitler was a grotesque humanoid magicked onto our planet from some dark star, seems dangerously self-indulgent. But that is the impression Tabori gives.

There may be an important play to be written about Hitler's arrival, with his portfolio of landscapes, in a Viennese doss-house. It would very likely describe the impact of setbacks on a boy bristling with insecurity and unresolved anger. It might show him changing, hardening. It might even confront us with the Hitler in ourselves or in those we know. It would be psychologically far more informative than the farcical villain Jonathan Oliver has constructed from the verbal sticks and stones in Tabori's text.

As it is, Oliver clatters onstage, a clownish drip forever twitching,

lurching and talking in a growl seemingly derived from the incubi in *The Exorcist*. He says crazed, malevolent things, too. "It's a conspiracy by the Elders of Zion," he bawls, fists hammering, after being rejected as an art student. He even pulls a razor on the other major figure in Michael Batz's production, a conscientious Jewish bookseller, played by Joseph Long. This kindly person offers the bug-eyed Adolf everything from jokes to chicken soup, and tries to save him from a lady in black lace called Frau Death, unaware that she is recruiting him as an "exterminating angel", not seeking his end. Needless to say, he gets no thanks from the future Führer.

There are hints that Hitler envied his heavy father, and others that he felt unlovable; there is a bit of theological speculation, thanks to an aged doosser who walks through walls and likes being called God. Unluckily, such subtleties make little impact, given the style Tabori has chosen. Yet perhaps he opted for so much knockabout — Hitler somersaulting from his bunk, or fleeing Death like Buster Keaton eluding a cop — because he found the subject too painful to treat realistically.

Certainly, pain is briefly apparent in the fantasy that ends the play. Hitler has followed his Jewish roommate's advice to "go into politics" with a vengeance. He returns with brown shirts, swastikas, threats and a violence that is, for the first time, powerfully if metaphorically conveyed. A Nazi heavy in plastic gloves dissects a chicken, describing its butchery and disembowelment in sickening detail. The play may not effectively show who Hitler was; but there, in that image, is what he did.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

the speed and movement to be primary, the actual notes almost an arbitrary in-fill to support a musical energy that had its own existence. Equally remarkable was the stone-dead coldness of episodes where the tempo is slow and unchanging, notably the beginning of the second movement and the very end of the work, both echoing the closing bars of the Webern.

In the Beethoven, Pollini was in more typical form, especially in the acute force of his high trills (often with the effort towards them expressed in a lunging groan), the solid bass lines. The absolutely clear counterpoint, and the astonishing high speeds, right to the point of danger in the first presto variation. One effect was to emphasise how so many of the variations are variations on a small motif as well as on the Diabelli waltz: a bridge was thus thrown across to Webern, especially in the mirror patterns of the 18th variation. But Pollini's penetrating, unfilmed view also suggested a strong element of parody and despair in almost everything — even the slow movement before the fugue seemed a coldly imagined imitation and disparagement of the new bel canto.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

the City of London Sinfonia under the direction of Richard Hickox. The forthcoming associated recording is eagerly anticipated.

As Hilary Finch suggested in her interview with James Bowman on Wednesday, the production has a distinct tang of Edwardian society about it. The mechanics are workers on Theseus's country estate and play their "Pyramus and Thisbe" before a master, sung by Norman Bailey, who comes across as a painfully patronising hereditary member of the Upper House. The disdain shown towards the peasants by his betrothed Hippolyta (Penelope Walker) and the two pairs of lovers, incongruously served wine by a tailcoated but shirtless Puck, is exaggerated by the producer David Meyer to the point of being deliberately sickening.

This scene is the only one to disturb the opera's idyll. Indeed,



Joseph Long, left, as Herzl and Jonathan Oliver as Hitler

DANCE

Yolande Snaith Riverside Studios

ONCE she danced with a teapot, and more recently she has performed with a chamber pot. For the debut of her new company, Yolande Snaith has gone the whole hog and plays a woman who appears completely potty. Her character is a sort of post-modernist bag lady who lives on the top of a cliff, rescues waterlogged wooden benches from the sea and keeps trespassing on the land of a pretentious religious order.

One of her bags contains a recorded voice blathering on with some half-baked thoughts of William Hazlitt on the subject of past and future, and whether either of them is real. Snaith, who mutters along with this, is perhaps trying to show that the present can be unreal too. That might explain why her religious neighbours spend most of their time standing on one another's skin hems, banging books on benches, sweeping sand from the courtyard and pretending (none too convincingly) to juggle with tennis balls. Occasionally they throw off

their robes and engage in a brief bout of furious energy, but mostly the action is a mixture of silent acting and film. The show is called, punningly, *Court by the Tale*: but who can say why?

Another Dance Umbrella production squeezed off this page last week is worthy of commendation. Correspondences is a collaboration by the choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh and composer Kevin Volans, which uses a string quartet, an actor-singer (the excellent Llewellynn Rayappan), a recorded speaking voice and Indian dancing to present the story of Srinivasa Ramanujan, self-taught mathematician from Madras. His apparently intuitive brilliance in producing mathematical formulae won him a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he did work which is now only being fully appreciated, but he died young of tuberculosis.

It sounds an unlikely subject for singing and dancing but it gave an amazingly convincing insight into the life and thoughts of a remarkable man. There is a performance at Liverpool's Bluecoat Centre today and others to follow in Farnham, Brighton and Stockport: worth looking out for.

JOHN PERCIVAL

this part better than a younger one. His mercurial roguishness is credible and he is extraordinarily like of him.

Della Jones, as Hermia, and Jill Gomez, as Helena, make as spiteful and powerful a pair of rivals as could be wished for; singing in their confrontational scene with claws fully drawn. Their (eventual) lovers are John Graham Hall, a smooth-voiced, crimson-uniformed Lysander, and Henry Herford, a Demetrius who looks as though he might be something in the City. Though they probably have no more work to do than these, Lillian Watson's captivatingly imperious Titania and James Bowman's beautifully sung, strangely calm and androgynous Oberon bedeck the evening with an all-pervading sense of magic.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA

A Midsummer Night's Dream Sadler's Wells

OPERA London's beguiling new version of Britten's work is one in which everything seems as clear as day. Or at least the moon shines brightly and no gauze obscures Anabel Temple's effective, straightforward designs — crumbling brick walls overrun by creeping ivy, a solid rock (from which stones are extracted to make magic circles that protect the sleeping Titania), and, in the last act, an idyllic park with a huge glistening lake backstage, framed by a classical arch. Such clarity is reflected also in the orchestral playing of Britten's shimmeringly beautiful score by

the City of London Sinfonia under the direction of Richard Hickox. The forthcoming associated recording is eagerly anticipated.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 26

LARIA

(b) Faust and Maria Larua were soprano sisters from Verona in the first half of the century. Faust established a school of singing in Rome; Maria was the first Berlin Tosca and Marlene (Toland), and became a great favorite in other verismo roles.

MINNIE

(b) The heroine of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*, Minnie, soprano, is keeper of the Polka Saloon, and sort of den-mother for the mining camp in California during the Gold Rush of 1849-50.

DESTINN

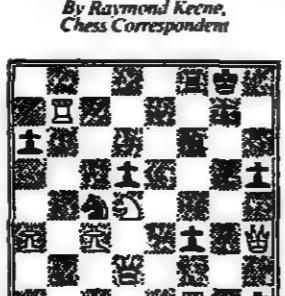
(b) Emry Destinn, Czech soprano, born Prague 1878, at Covent Garden the first Butterfly, Tatiana, Tessa and Minnie, which she had created at the world premiere in New York in 1910.

ENEE

(b) The hero of *The Trojans*, it is merely the odd French way of spelling Aeneas, destiny-driven leader of the Trojans, who escapes from Troy, betrays Dido, and sails on to found the Roman Empire.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent



Houghton (White) — Leesas (Black). Hampstead 1990. Black has sacrificed a rook for three pawns and a dangerous attack. How does he continue? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Bxg6! Oxb3 (otherwise black loses the queen, e.g. 1... Qd5 2 Bxd4+ f5 3 Qxf5! Rxf5 4 Qxf5). 2 Bxf5! Kxf5 3 Qxf5! Rxf5 4 Qxf5. White wins.

JAMES BOLAM

Answers from page 26

WILLIE RUSSELL'S

BLOOD BROTHERS

BY STEPHEN LAWRENCE

WITH STEPHANIE LAWRENCE

IN THEATRE

BY STEPHEN LAWRENCE

IN THEATRE</

Host is 1st

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 1990

25

TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
• TELEVISION AND RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVILLE

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cosfax**
6.30 BBC Breaktime News with Jill Dando and Paul Burden
8.50 Daytime UK presented by Adrian Mils and Alan Titchmarsh
9.00 News, regional news and weather
9.05 Brainwave. Quiz game presented by Andy Craig 9.25 *Die of the Day*. A recipe for children 9.30 *People Today*. With weekend gardening advice from Plymouth and Abberdeen and viewers' *Open Line*
10.00 News, regional news and weather
10.05 *One's a BBC*, introduced by Simon Phillips 10.15 *Daydays*
10.25 *The Family News*. Comic series (110-35) *People Today*. Includes a report from Glasgow on pets
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on *Maria Intrusion* into the Royal Family. Wales: (to 12.00) *Plain Cymru Conference* 11.45 *Before Noon*. With viewers' telephone calls and a special guest
12.00 News, regional news and weather
12.05 *Midnight Moon*: Travel Show Extra. John Thaw returns from the Bahamas. All in *Sunday* and there is a guide to Torbay in *December* 12.20 *Scene Today*. News and gossip about the world of showbiz 12.25 *Regional News and Weather*
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Heywood. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax)
1.50 *Film: The Fourth Wish* (1976). John Melton stars as the hunter who tries to do everything for his sick son. However, the boy's fourth wish seems almost impossible to grant. A heartwarming Australian drama written



The art of soul: Antoni Tapies (10.20pm)

- by Michael Craig and directed by Don Chaffey. Wales: Six Million Dollar Man 2.40 Animation Now 2.50 *Plaid Cyfru Conference*
3.35 *Bugs Bunny* (r) 3.50 *Bump*. An animated story about a young elephant 3.55 *Corners*. Sophie Aldred 3.55 *Stephen Johnson* and Joanne Egan answer young questions 4.00 *The Jacksons* (Ceefax) 4.25 *Take Two*. Philip Schofield invites young people to let rip with views on television programmes
5.00 *Newround* 5.10 *Byker Grove*. Drama serial about a youth club on Tyne-side. (Ceefax)
5.25 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*
5.50 *Star City* (Ceefax). Weather 6.00 *Sesame Street*. Weather
6.30 *Regional News Magazine*. Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*
7.00 *Wogan* with Les Dawson, Paula Yates and a song from Lisa Stansfield
7.30 *Only Fools and Horses*. Award-winning comedy about wheeler-dealing brothers in south London, starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r). (Ceefax)
8.00 *Bravo Forsyth's Generation Game*. More relatives battle it out in the popular quiz game show. (Ceefax)
8.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather
8.30 *Cashless Love's a Pain*. Superb hospital drama starring Brenda Fricker. (Ceefax)
10.20 *Omnibus*. Antoni Tapies.
@ CHOICE: Because he attempts to bring a cosmic dimension to his work, and takes the Zen philosophical line of seeing a whole universe in a grain of salt, the distinguished Catalan painter does not invite hints of derision when he avers in Gregory Hurd's

12.40am Weather

- Lexus is tested; and Alfa Romeo's 20th today tour of Europe comes to Britain (r)
8.00 *Film: The Delicate Delinquent* (1958, b/w). Jerry Lewis stars in his first film without Dean Martin as an eccentric youth herding around with thugs who is befriended by a kindly policeman. The lad is encouraged to make a fresh start and decides to become a policeman himself. Zany comedy combined with social comment which fails to convince either way. Directed by Don McGuire. Wales: *Business Matters* 6.30 *Espresso*. Viva 6.55 *A Vous La France* 7.20 *See Heard*
7.45 *What the Papers Say* with Julian Monday of *The Independent*
8.00 *Public Eye: A-levels – The Great Debate*. An examination of the alternatives to the A-level exam
8.30 *The Ornamental Kitchen Garden*. Geoff Hamilton explains the merits of pergolas and fruit arches. (Ceefax)
9.00 *Indelible Evidence: Murder in the Wind*.
@ CHOICE: It is impossible to overstate the absolute conviction with which the forensic science experts and policemen who contribute to these reconstructions of real-life crimes, review their experiences. If it were not difficult enough to repeat for the benefit of the microphone and the camera what they said and did at the time, they are expected to don their amateur "acting" with that of professionals who have been hard at it for a lifetime and know all the tricks. This remarkably smooth integration of different performing styles can be admired again tonight. In this story of a Mercedes murder without a body, but with a vast number of incriminating

evidence clues, the re-enactment of the killing itself is almost unbearable realistic. (Ceefax)

9.30 *Python's Flying Circus*. More classic comedy from the team, including the Ministry of Silly Walks and the Pranha brothers (r). (Ceefax)

10.00 *Have I Got News for You?* Comedy quiz programme hosted by Angus Deacon with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton

10.30 *Newswight* with Jeremy Paxman 11.15 *Weather*

11.20 *New West*. New series showcasing the best in American country rock, *Tonight I'm Long and the Reclines*, *Steve Earle and Civil War*

11.55 *AK*. Akira Kurosawa, one of the world's most revered living film directors, is profiled in the documentary by veteran French filmmaker Chris Marker. Shot on the location of the filming of *Ran* in 1985, the programme provides an insight into the organisation of complex scenes and the interactions of a group of highly skilled professionals. Extras, too, are not overlooked, but it is Kurosawa who is at the centre of it all. Ends at 1.10am

1.30am *Elaine Ford plays the murder victim* (9.00pm)

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10.30 *Newswight* with Jeremy Paxman 11.15 *Weather*

11.20 *New West*. New series showcasing the best in American country rock, *Tonight I'm Long and the Reclines*, *Steve Earle and Civil War*

11.55 *AK*. Akira Kurosawa, one of the world's most revered living film directors, is profiled in the documentary by veteran French filmmaker Chris Marker. Shot on the location of the filming of *Ran* in 1985, the programme provides an insight into the organisation of complex scenes and the interactions of a group of highly skilled professionals. Extras, too, are not overlooked, but it is Kurosawa who is at the centre of it all. Ends at 1.10am

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1.

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 27-33
- MOTORING 35
- LAW 40
- SPORT 40-44

BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Whitehall confirms 100% power sale

THE government has said that it plans to sell 100 per cent of the 12 electricity distribution companies in England and Wales in the privatisation issue next month. But it has retained the right to change its mind at any time up to shortly before impact day on November 21.

The decision by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, comes after pressure from the electricity industry and the City, which is concerned that a sale of just 60 per cent of the equity, an option the government was also considering, would send the wrong signal to the stock market.

But the energy department is keen to retain the right to revert to a 60 per cent sale for as long as possible as insurance against any market collapse, for example, after hostilities in the Gulf.

Ferguson static

Ferguson International Holdings, which has a broad range of industrial interests, is maintaining its interim dividend at 4.25p a share on static pre-tax profits of £6.33 million for the six months to the end of August, against £6.29 million. Earnings a share, including investment profits, were 12.6p (12.1p).

Tempus, page 29

N Brown rise

N Brown, the direct mail order company, made pre-tax profits of £5.5 million in the six months to September 1, an increase of 6.3 per cent. Sales rose 11.2 per cent to £63.1 million and earnings a share 9.3 per cent to 6.23p. The interim dividend is increased 4.8 per cent to 1.65p.

Tempus, page 29

Trust ahead

Pre-tax revenue of Scottish Mortgage & Trust, one of Scotland's biggest investment trusts, increased from £10.9 million to £11.4 million in the half-year to end-September. Earnings per share edged up from 2.16p to 2.2p. The interim dividend is 1.25p (1.10p). The net asset value fell 18 per cent to 134.4p a share.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9545 (-0.0010)
German mark 2.9572 (+0.0081)
Exchange Index 94.6 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1617.5 (-21.4)
FT-SE 100 2088.7 (-21.8)
New York Dow Jones 2490.59 (-13.82)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 25352.63 (+475.75)
Closing Prices ... Page 31
Major Indices and major changes Page 30

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month Interbank 13.7% 13.5%
3-month eligible bills 13% 13.5%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.21% 19.5%
30-year bonds 9.5% 9.5%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
E 95.45	E 91.6545
E DM2.9572	S DM1.5130*
E SwFr2.4595	S SwFr 2.765*
E FF19.6908	S FF15.0640*
E Yen248.61	S Yen127.23
E Index 94.6	S Index 80.3
ECD 10.697379	SCH 10.7349
E CECI 4.03942	E SDR1.357314

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$373.90 pm \$375.05
Close \$375.00-\$375.50 £191.50-
New York Comex \$378.50-\$377.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$32.20/bbl (\$29.65)
Denmark latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank Buys 2.00	Bank Sells 2.42
Austria Sch	21.70	20.40
Belgium Fr	53.69	50.50
Canada \$	1.25	2.04
France Fr	7.35	6.95
Germany Dm	309.00	289.00
Hong Kong \$	15.50	13.90
Ireland Pr	1.15	2.10
Italy Lira	262.63	247.50
Japan Yen	11.98	11.28
Netherlands Gld	3.46	3.26
Portugal Esc	2.00	2.40
Southern Afr Rand	9.20	8.70
Sweden Kr	11.39	10.75
Switzerland Fr	2.95	2.41
UK £	2.05	1.94
USA \$	2.70	2.00
Yugoslavia Cnr	33.03	33.03

Rates for small denominations bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, will cut between 35,000 and 45,000 jobs worldwide by the end of next year, in addition to the 10,000 redundancies announced in July.

Jan Timmer, chairman, said the job losses would be made globally across the board. They will involve some involuntary redundancies. He also announced that the company would slash its dividend this year, a move welcomed by analysts.

The company has been hit by severe problems in its components and computer divisions and is now

desperate to regain investor confidence.

Philips (UK), its British subsidiary, is believed to be particularly affected by the job cutting programme. The company employs 15,500 in 12 UK plants, of which nine are involved in the manufacture of components.

If job losses affect the UK workforce to the same degree as elsewhere, about 3,000 employees could lose their jobs. However, because of the plants' greater exposure to the company's troubled components business, job losses may well be greater.

The announcement came only a

few months after Cor van der Kring, Philips' former chairman who was forced to resign over the company's problems, wrote in the 1989 annual report: "Our employees can be proud of the fact that Philips is moving in the right direction."

Mr Timmer yesterday revised the expected year-end loss, previously estimated at £12 billion (£204 million). "There is a possibility or probability it may be higher than the £12 billion forecast if we decide to take extra restructuring provisions," he said.

The chairman also announced results for the nine months to September. The net loss is £1.79

billion, compared with a profit of £685 million in the same period last year. The best performing part of the business continued to be the consumer products division, where operational income rose from £18.8 million to £11.2 billion. Professional products made a loss of £4.8 million, while components made a profit of only £14 million, just 0.2 per cent of the division's sales. Total net sales for the period were £13.1 billion, marginally down on last year.

Financial analysts welcomed the announcement of the job cuts, but were disappointed there was no specific news on the direction the

company would take. Mr Timmer refused to give details about the cuts. He also reaffirmed his commitment to the components and computer divisions.

Earlier this week Philips agreed to a £9 million out-of-court settlement with American investors, who alleged that Philips had misinformed shareholders about its financial troubles.

Philips shares, which were yesterday suspended on the Amsterdam stock exchange for the first two hours of trading, fell by £10.60 to close at £120.20.

Tempus, page 25

Philips to axe more jobs and cut payout

ICI slide underlines recession warning of chairman

By GRAHAM SEARJANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR Denys Henderson, the chairman of ICI, has underlined his message that British manufacturing industry is sliding towards a recession combining weak demand, high oil prices and trading problems brought about by the sterling's rise up to parity to the exchange-rate mechanism.

Unveiling a near-50 per cent fall in profits in the third quarter, Sir Denys warned shareholders that trading will remain difficult into 1991. He said the impact of higher oil prices since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the group's already depressed bulk petrochemicals and general chemicals divisions had only started to show last month.

In the nine months to end-September, ICI's pre-tax profits fell 28 per cent from the record level of 1989 to £893 million. The downturn accelerated sharply in the traditionally weak third quarter, during which ICI made only £160 million pre-tax, against £319 million in the second quarter and £306 million in the third quarter last year.

Turnover in the third quarter fell 7 per cent from last year and below £3 billion for the first time since the last quarter of 1988, reflecting poor demand and prices, especially in the group's general chemicals and petrochemicals and plastics divisions.

The depression in demand, which is worst in Britain but also significant in America and Australia, pushed the specialty products division into a third-quarter loss. There was also a third-quarter loss in fibres, agrochemicals and in the fertiliser business.

However, in the first nine months, pharmaceuticals contributed £380 million (£296 million). But general chemical profits fell from £249 million to £114 million over the nine months, and petrochemicals and plastics were down from £328 million to £109 million.

Brokers reduced their profit forecasts for the full year down to near the £1 billion level, compared with £1.5 billion last year. But ICI shares fell only 3p to 83p. The purchase of the remaining 50 per cent stake in Tioxide, when cleared, is not expected to have much net effect.

Sir Denys said ICI had implemented plans to cut capital spending and control costs.

Comment, page 29

Administrators at Polly Peck will meet DTI

By MATTHEW BOND

PARTNERS of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte have been appointed joint administrators of Polly Peck International, but only after a potential conflict of interest emerged in the High Court.

Coopers, it was pointed out, is also personal tax accountants to Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman. To avoid any conflict, Mr Justice Morris appointed Christopher Morris of Touche Ross as joint administrator with Michael Jordan of Cork Gully, Coopers' insolvency firm, and Richard Stone, Coopers' head of corporate finance.

Mr Morris, it is understood, will have a special responsibility to investigate any claims there might be against Mr Nadir himself.

One of the first tasks of the administrators will be to report to Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. The DTI is under increasing pressure to launch an investigation into Polly Peck's rapid demise.

A statement last night made the DTI's position clear: "The secretary of state will look at all the information available arising from the move into administration of Polly Peck and the events leading up to it."

"In particular he will want to hear from the administrator at the earliest opportunity whether the administrator thinks there are any matters under investigation, which require the services of the secretary of state's powers under the Companies Act, bearing in mind the investigations into alleged misconduct already being undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office."

During the hearing, the scale of Polly Peck's problems emerged. An insolvency study prepared by Coopers indicated that if the company was put into liquidation there would be a deficiency of £384

million. But if an orderly administration is carried out, Coopers believes that all creditors can be paid in full and up to £300 million could be available for distribution to shareholders. Polly Peck has 23,000 shareholders, many of whom are facing huge losses.

Describing the administration order as "absolutely essential" Justice Morris said: "So far as the members [shareholders] are concerned, this is the only reasonable prospect of them recovering any money."

Mr Simon Mortimore, counsel for the Polly Peck directors, said the directors had sought an administration order in the belief that "survival is achievable".

At a press conference the administrators made clear there would be no fire sale of Polly Peck assets. "The prime purpose of the exercise is to reconstruct the group," said Mr Jordan. "We hope we are going to see the survival of the whole of the group, or at least a major part of it."

The court also heard that Polly Peck only has enough cash to keep going until December, after which new borrowings or fresh disposals would have to be made. It was mentioned that the contents of Polly Peck's Mayfair headquarters, including works of art, are worth up to £7 million.

The administration order was sought by the directors of Polly Peck after Wednesday's board meeting, when Mr Nadir returned from his three-day trip to Turkey and Cyprus without the £30 million required by the company's bankers. Mr Nadir was not in court, but David Fawcett, the deputy chief executive, was, with other PPI employees.

In the morning it had appeared that the administrative order might be opposed by National Bank of Canada, a Montreal-based

Comment, page 29



Centre of events: Michael Jordan of Cork Gully outside the Law Courts yesterday

Woolwich wins £90m tax dispute

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Woolwich Building Society has won a £90 million dispute with the Inland Revenue in the House of Lords. The law lords voted unanimously against the Inland Revenue, setting aside a precedent that may encourage other societies to take legal action against the tax authorities.

The dispute stems from the Inland Revenue's decision to charge the societies for tax on the interest earned on savers' accounts every three months, like the banks. Previously, the societies had only had to pay the tax once a year.

The Woolwich argued that this had forced them to pay double tax worth £70 million, and began legal proceedings.

The building society won the first case in the High Court in 1987, and the Inland Revenue repaid the contested figure. The Inland Revenue appealed and finally admitted that the Woolwich had suffered double taxation. But it relied on the wording of the regulation to press its case.

The case was overturned in the Court of Appeal, and the Woolwich was forced to pay the money back to the tax officials.

The law lords have given the Inland Revenue seven days to return the money to the Woolwich. The sum has grown to £90 million as interest has accrued, and the Woolwich says it is still disputing further interest charges.

Alan Cumming, the Woolwich's executive vice-chairman, said he was delighted with the result. "The Lords have vindicated our view that these regulations were unfair and unlawful." The case has cost the Woolwich £500,000.

Rival Pan Am bid

planned to take legal action against the airline saying the £290 million selling price for the five routes was too low.

This point was hammered home by Mr Crandall in his letter. He said: "We believe that the fiduciary duties owed by you and your fellow directors to maximise value for Pan Am's stockholders and creditors dictate that you afford us an opportunity to make a competing offer for these assets."

The main Pan Am union, the Teamsters Airline Division also said yesterday it declined comment.

Pan Am and United both

commented.

Comment, page 29

Storehouse finance director leaves in boardroom row

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BOB Mackenzie, finance director of Storehouse, left the group abruptly yesterday after what appeared to be a boardroom row.

Directors refused to comment on the split. Ian Hay Davison, chairman of the Mothercare, Habitat and British Home Stores group, said he had been advised to say nothing.

Mr Mackenzie's approach to man management appears to have been at the root of the problem.

Mr Mackenzie's surprise departure comes a fortnight before the group announces interim results but his departure is believed to have nothing to do with the figures. The

group did not make a trading statement yesterday after the announcement at the annual meeting in July of cautious optimism for the full year goods.

Lawyers for Mr Mackenzie, who joined Store

DAF warns of a significant loss as 430 jobs disappear

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DAF is to lose 430 jobs at its van and truck plants in Britain and has given a warning that it expects to make "a significant loss" during 1990.

The Anglo-Dutch company said 600 workers would be placed on a four-day week and said that further jobs are under threat. It blamed a sharp down-turn in the British market.

DAF, based in Eindhoven, Holland, said it had hoped to end the year with a modest loss after reporting a loss of £32.1 million guilders (£9.7 million) during the six months to end-June.

But yesterday it reported that demand for vans in Britain had slumped 20 per cent compared with the same period of 1989.

Overall, the truck market has been reduced in Belgium, France, Spain and Sweden. Germany is the only main European country to show stronger demand.

Hardest hit is the van plant at Washwood Heath, Birmingham, where the night shift is being ended. Forty temporary jobs and 260 permanent jobs

will go. "We are confident that we shall get those through voluntary redundancy," said a DAF spokesman.

The plant, where 2,000 are employed, makes the Leyland DAF 200 and 400 series vans. David Rowlands, Leyland DAF's communications manager, said Leyland DAF had been unable to prevent a fall in sales despite increasing its share of the British van market from 10 per cent to 12 per cent. "Interest rates are a factor with small businesses being very hard pressed. The little guy running a grocer's shop is feeling the pinch and is either holding onto his old van a little longer or simply not surviving."

At the DAF light and medium truck plant in Leyland, Lancashire, where 1,200 are employed, 130 white-collar staff will be made redundant over the next three months, and 600 production workers placed on a four day week and asked to take an extended Christmas break. Talks about job losses are also to begin with unions at DAF's Alton axle plant in Glasgow.

Takeover of Signet blocked

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade Secretary, has again demonstrated his objection to the takeover of British companies by foreign state-owned firms. He has referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission a request from Sigos de France to take over Signet, Britain's biggest credit card paperwork processing operation.

Sigos is 62.8 per cent owned by Credit Lyonnais, a bank which is wholly-owned by the French Government. Mr Lilley's decision went against the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading who concluded the merger should not be referred.

However Mr Lilley cleared a parallel proposal for First Data Resources, an American rival suitor for Signet, to mount a takeover. He was concerned at the implications of Signet coming under the control of a foreign state-controlled company.

On August 31 Mr Lilley referred to the MMC plans by Credit Lyonnais to take a 45 per cent stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish leasing company with operations in the UK, expressing similar concerns.

Signet's joint owners are Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster banks and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

UDO rises 24% to £9.8m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

UDO Holdings, the drawing office and reprographic equipment supplier, increased pre-tax profits by 24.7 per cent to £9.8 million for the year to end-July.

The figure was boosted by a £555,000 exceptional gain on the sale of part of the group's freehold site at Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire.

The effect of the sale was to add 7 per cent, or 1.26p, to earnings per share, taking total earnings per share to 23.4p, compared with 18.2p last time.

The company ended the year with a substantially strengthened balance sheet, boasting net cash balances of £11.9 million and no borrowings.

Mike Wright, the chairman and managing director, said: "The results reflect the progress made by UDO last year."

"Margins have improved, our reporting and management systems are very efficient and we have a very strong balance sheet."

Turnover increased only 3 per cent to £62.7 million.

Mr Wright said that this reflected the group's policy of reducing sales abroad "where margins were unacceptable or non-existent" and the expiry of fixed price contracts to which the company had been committed through previous acquisitions.

A final dividend of 3.24p per share makes a total of 4.59p, a 35 per cent increase on last year.



Reflecting progress: Michael Wright, the chairman

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Exports help Elliott increase profits by 9%

B ELLIOTT, the machine tool and engineering company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.25p a share despite returning a 9 per cent increase in first half profits. During the six months to end-September pre-tax profits rose from £3.05 million to £3.33 million on turnover 29 per cent higher at £66 million. But earnings declined from 4.55p a share to 4.40p, reflecting a small increase in the number of shares in issue and higher minority interests.

Michael Frye, chairman and chief executive, said overseas sales had increased, and the export-oriented machine tool manufacturing companies increased profitability. At the end of August the company acquired Garryson, a manufacturer of cutting and abrasive tools for £1.1 million, which was financed via a vendor placing of 2.69 million shares at 78p. Elliott shares were unchanged yesterday at 76p.

Petrocon in 51% advance

PETROCON Group, the valves and pipe fittings to cartographic group, lifted pre-tax profits by 51 per cent to £769,000 in the six months to end-June, on turnover up 25 per cent to £5.7 million. Earnings per share were 2.31p (1.85p). The interim dividend is 0.625p (0.5p). The company said both operating divisions traded satisfactorily. The shares firmed 1p to 38p.

Cash call at Craton

CRATON Lodge & Knight Group, the product-development company quoted on the USM, plans to raise about £2.75 million through a placing and offer of 137.5 million ordinary shares at 2p each. Shareholders can apply for new shares on the basis of one new ordinary share for every two shares already held.

CLK's directors estimate that the group's pre-tax loss for the year to the end of last month was not more than £238,000. The directors will not be recommending a final dividend. The shares were unchanged at 2½p on the news.

Oil boosts Norsk Hydro

HIGHER oil prices have lifted third-quarter profits at Norsk Hydro, Norway's largest industrial conglomerate, with interests from oil to fertilizers. Net profits were up from Kr408 million to Kr625 million (£54 million). However, with the downturn in the first half, pre-tax profits for the nine months to September were down from Kr4.12 billion to Kr3.95 billion.

ST asset value slips

SECURITIES Trust of Scotland, the Edinburgh investment trust which is managed by Martin Currie, reports an advance in pre-tax income from £6.92 million to £8.12 million in the six months to end-September. However, the net asset value at par slipped to 60.4p (75.6p) "in very difficult stock market conditions", a fall of 13.5 per cent, compared with a 13.7 per cent decline in the FTA All Share Index.

Total income climbed from £9.09 million to £10.3 million. Earnings per share grew to 1.81p (1.56p), while the interim dividend is raised to 1.02p (0.90p).

R&D drive hits Pegasus

INCREASED spending on R&D spend has led to a 17 per cent decline in pre-tax profits at Pegasus Group, the USM accounting software supplier. The fall in profits to £2.5 million for the year to end-June from last year's £3.1 million was almost matched by a £520,000 increase in R&D expenditure. A final dividend of 8.6p makes 12.1p for the year, against 11.2p last year.

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SECURITIES Trust of Scotland, the Edinburgh investment trust which is managed by Martin Currie, reports an advance in pre-tax income from £6.92 million to £8.12 million in the six months to end-September. However, the net asset value at par slipped to 60.4p (75.6p) "in very difficult stock market conditions", a fall of 13.5 per cent, compared with a 13.7 per cent decline in the FTA All Share Index.

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'Hard ecu' route to monetary union attacked by Pöhl

By COLIN NARBEROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S proposal for a "hard ecu" route to European Monetary Union has come under fire from Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, who fears the plan will create a distraction from the goal of economic convergence.

Addressing an Ecu Banking Association conference in Berlin, Herr Pöhl, who has warned against over-hasty progress towards EMU, said a high degree of convergence, particularly on inflation, was "absolutely necessary" before embarking on stages two and three of the Delors plan for EMU.

German monetary union had provided a "drastic object-lesson" in what could happen when exchange rates are abolished without economic convergence.

Given the prospect for economic convergence across the European Community, he said it was "highly unlikely" that all 12 member states could or wished to participate in EMU from the beginning.

On Britain's alternative plan, Herr Pöhl agreed the ecu should be made stronger, but opposed the creation of the European Monetary Fund, as policy, he said, should be coordinated by a European central bank. Herr Pöhl said the parallel currency strategy offered no advantage over the Delors report concerning institutional arrangements, and had the disadvantage that an inherent commitment to internal price stability as a matter of individual policy.

Noting the cut in British interest rates that accompanied British ERM entry, he said he did not yet see convincing proof of a determination to maintaining the monetary stability necessary when there is a link-up to harder currencies. "Linking entry to a reduction of interest rates is rather a signal in the other direction," he said.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, told the conference Britain was committed to making a success of its membership of the ERM and that it had been "absolutely essential" that Britain waited until inflationary pressures in its economy were abating. He said he was now "confident" this was the case.

In a separate speech in London last night, he underlined that whereas smaller countries could rely on the mark as an ERM anchor, larger economies, such as Britain, "must have a strong inherent commitment to internal price stability as a matter of individual policy".

Eurotunnel's loan extension signed

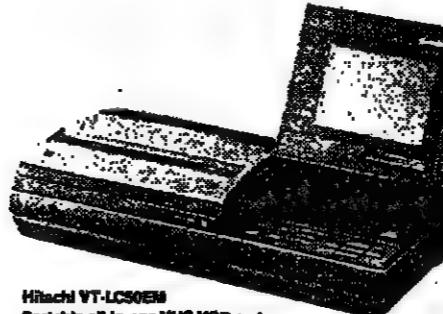
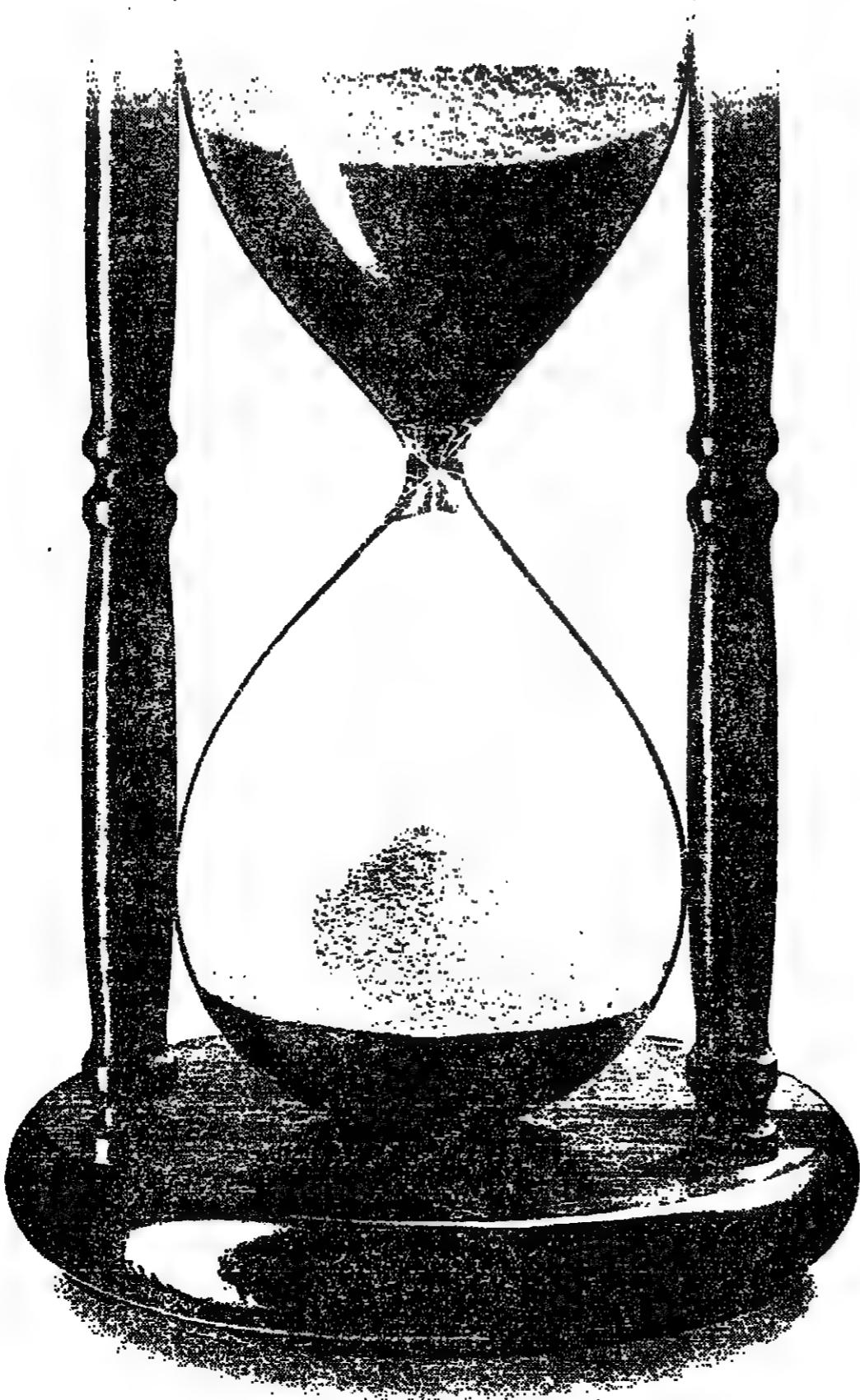
By OUR CITY STAFF

THE completion of the world's largest infrastructure project has come a step closer with the signing in Paris and London of the £1.8 billion extension to the Eurotunnel loan facility.

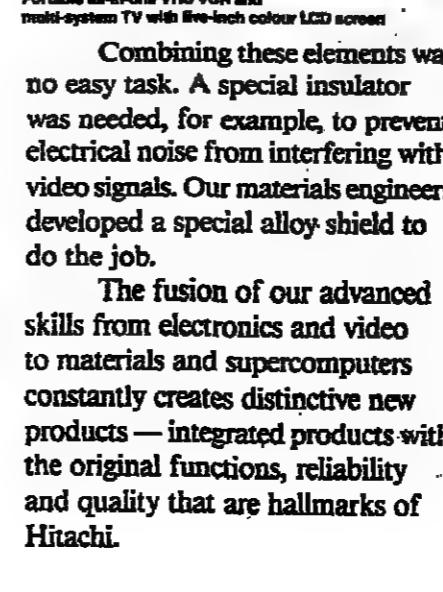
All but "a handful" of the more than 200 banks in the syndicate signed the agreement in simultaneous ceremonies on both sides of the Channel. The final formalities are expected to be completed by Monday.

The banks that did not sign were prevented from doing so by delays in receiving powers

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The administration order granted in respect of Polly Peck International is like the real meat in a thick, white bread, sandwich delivered from the Bank of England. On the underside, a speech by Pen Kent, the bank's industrial director, who on Wednesday evening was extolling the virtues of the London rules for avoiding the sort of panic among lenders that put Michael Jordan into Asil Nadir's hot seat yesterday afternoon. On the topside, appropriately, rests the governor himself, Robin Leigh-Pemberton. He told the Equipment Leasing Association dinner last night that the same London rules could be summed up by one simple precept: bankers who voluntarily take on a banking relationship in good times share some responsibility with the rest of the banking community to contribute to an orderly management of crisis.

If they are the London rules, bankers to Polly Peck must have been playing the game according to some other conventions, perhaps the "Ankara rules". The behaviour of the bankers in this

instance has been totally inconsistent. Only months ago they were queuing up to lend hundreds of millions to the company. Yet last week, the chairman was forced to fly around the world, to scour Asia Minor, looking for a paltry £30 million or face liquidation.

The difference is that, in between, Asil Nadir was interviewed by the Serious Fraud Office, in connection with events which seem to involve a family company. Interviewed. Not charged. The worst that could arise from that visit is that Nadir would have been taken out of active service. The group would have had to function without him. On that basis, the flow of credit ceased. If the bankers did really lend, collectively, more than a billion pounds against the skills of one businessman, they are stupid. What would they have done if Nadir had a helicopter crash, a heart attack or met the proverbial double-decker bus?

No mustard on the bankers' bread

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Attend the funeral and then put the company into receivership?

It appears that, for the sake of £30 million immediately, or £250 million soon, the banks have destroyed two billions of equity and put at risk a billion of their own loans. Is this what is meant by the "London rules" of which Pen Kent and Robin Leigh-Pemberton are so proud?

The accountants now crawling over the corpse of the parrot that failed to twitch may discover that Polly Peck was never the business depicted by the accounts. That there was some deception. In that case, the bankers should look to the auditors, or the directors, because they have been misled. But the accountants may equally, or

more likely, find that the accounts were accurate, and that the bankers' questions were properly answered at the time the loans were advanced, and that it was their own judgement which was so wildly wrong.

Demand is still deteriorating, oil prices have only recently started biting and the relatively high sterling/mark rate has been crystallised in the ERM. Not surprisingly, Sir Denys Henderson, ICI's chairman, is not looking for any respite.

Profit downgradings were amply justified by the third quarter results, which were in the middle of market forecasts, but not made up as expected. The big, growing pharmaceutical division had a particularly good quarter, only partly due to stocking of Tenormin before a price rise.

After making a third of the group's trading profit in the first half of 1990, pharmaceuticals accounted for 75 per cent in the third quarter. Four other divi-

sions, including the non-commodity specialty products, made a loss. There was only a minor contribution from general chemicals or from petrochemicals and plastics, which made profits on a comparable scale to pharmaceuticals last year.

Red pencils were out again in the City yesterday, suggesting ICI's full year pre-tax profits will fall by around to third to little more than £1 billion. More ominously, BZW swiftly cut its tentative 1991 forecast by £60 million to £870 million, and Smith New Court, though still slightly more optimistic, lopped £100 m of its 1991 figure.

The fate of ICI's dividend is already becoming a proxy for the degree of severity of the 1990-91 recession. Earnings above 90 pence per share should not threaten a maintained 55p net payment for 1990, but 78p on BZW's 1991 forecast could be vulnerable.

There has, however, been a big change over the decade. ICI is much more concerned with keeping its shareholders sweet than in sending any distress signal to Downing Street.

Administrators seek a way through Polly Peck maze

THE administration order at Polly Peck International presents Michael Jordan, and Richard Stone, from Cork Gully, and Christopher Morris, from Touche Ross, with the job of unravelling one of the most complex international trading groups in the world.

The hopes and fears of more than 200 creditors and 20,000 shareholders rest on their ability to value the group's disparate activities correctly and find buyers for them.

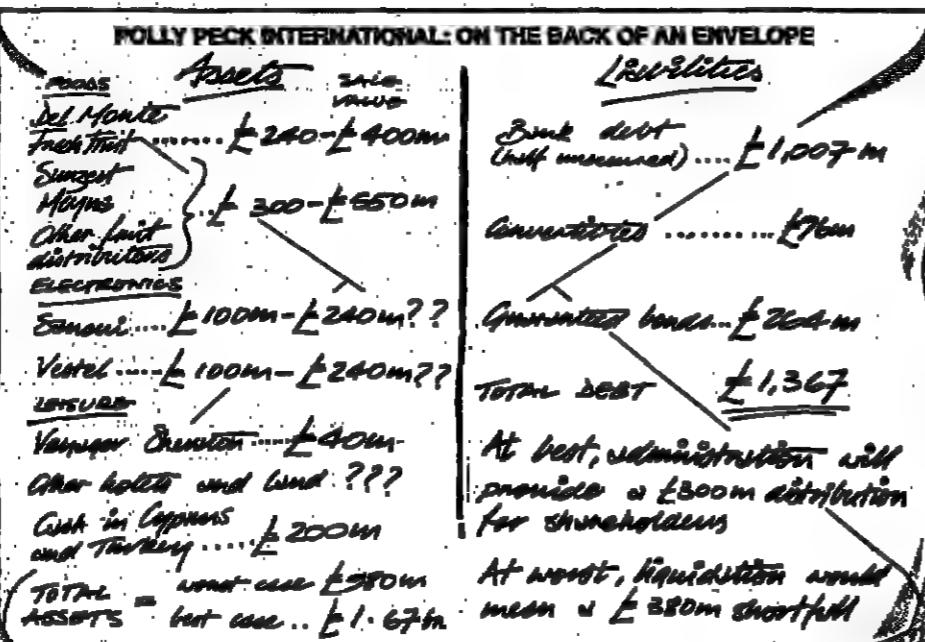
Mr Jordan has told the High Court that an orderly administration of Polly Peck should produce a £300 million distribution for shareholders, or 79p a share, including the conversion of preference shares.

He said, however, that liquidation would result in an estimated deficit of £380 million, leaving the shareholders nothing and forcing the company's unsecured creditors to accept heavy losses.

These two figures underline the subjectivity of any valuation of Polly Peck's assets. Cork Gully and Touche Ross hope the administration order will give them a substantial breathing space to find buyers for Polly Peck's interests. Values would have dropped steeply if disposals had been surrounded by caveats.

Polly's balance sheet has never been easy to analyse and now it is more opaque than ever. But the creditors' meeting this month was told that net debt stood at £1.07 billion. This included £30 million in short-term commercial paper as well as £264 million in guaranteed Swiss franc and mark denominated eurobonds.

But the debt was netted against the £200 million the company claims to have on deposits in Turkey and northern Cyprus. Asil Nadir, the chairman, has already demonstrated it is extremely difficult to gain access to these



funds, so a question mark hangs over their quality.

The only remaining debt is the convertible worth £96 million; so total debt may be as high as £1.367 billion. More than £200 million of this is repayable by next year.

The administrators must start an asset sale to repay the debt. But any valuation of Polly Peck's businesses is surrounded by caveats.

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GONE are the days when even a Himalayan mountain hermit would boast a Philips radio, as a popular British advertisement suggested a decade ago.

By now, even the hermit would probably have switched to a Japanese brand. And after horrendous third-quarter results, Jan Timmer, the new chairman of Philips, would probably be only too happy to trade places with the hermit.

Mr Timmer took over as chairman in July to sort out the mess which he inherited from his predecessors. Today, Philips, until recently one of Europe's most rock-solid industrial groups, is teetering on the brink.

It may survive in name, but it will never be the same Philips again.

Philips does not only suffer from a cost problem, in the way most of the European electronics industry did in the early part of the Eighties. Its troubles are more fundamental. They reflect an over-ambitious policy, embracing too many business sectors, including some where it had no chance of competing against Japanese rivals.

The company announced in May that its forecasts for the current year were too optimistic because it had underestimated the problems in its computer and components divisions.

The bad news has trickled out in small doses. The latest came yesterday, when Mr Timmer axed another 35,000 to 45,000 jobs, although shareholders — not to mention employees — have yet to be told exactly where the cuts will be made. They will not take comfort from past experience, which has shown that whenever a particular problem has been solved, another has come up.

The loss to date this year is 1.79 billion guilders (£550 million). The full-year loss, previously forecast at about 2 billion guilders, has been revised upwards again, and will depend on the scale of redundancies this year. It remains uncertain whether the company will return to profits next year or even the year after. There will be no dividend this year.

Mr Timmer has reiterated his belief that the company should remain independent, which means Dutch.

The shares, at 20.20 guilders, have halved over the last six months. Mr Timmer's reluctance to contemplate a takeover and to come clean on his plans are unlikely to change investor sentiment.

As one analyst wryly observed, it is becoming clear that a change of name, a change of management and a change of direction have failed to lift FIH's profits from a plateau reached more than two years ago.

Over the years this supplier of products and services for retailing and the communications sector has generated about as much excitement as one of its plastic coathangers but its dividend was always considered secure.

So it came as something of a shock when FIH announced that it was maintaining its interim dividend at 4.25p a share after reporting static taxable profits of £6.33 million.

FIH is locked into mature, low-margin businesses at a time when income from its long-held portfolio of investments is dwindling.

Borrowings remain stubbornly high at 60 per cent of shareholders' funds and are unlikely to be substantially reduced during the current year.

Debt levels are also high enough to deter would-be predators who may once have believed that a handsome profit could be made by unbundling FIH.

Profits are unlikely to exceed £13.4 million in the current year, against £13.1 million in the previous 12 months putting the shares, at 185p, on a prospective p/e ratio of almost seven. They look poor value.

The gearing ratio is high at 144 per cent but N Brown says this is due to its customer credit facilities and is well within its bank covenants.

Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of £14 million for the full year, putting the shares, up 5p to 165p, on a p/e ratio of more than 10.

The shares are unlikely to soar in the short term but should be held as N Brown looks ready to emerge from the economic downturn as one of the strongest, if smallest, players in the mail order sector.

queueing up to buy. ICI's trading is being hit, in order of importance, by a combination of depressed markets in Britain and America, irrecoverable higher oil prices and the rise of sterling.

Demand is still deteriorating, oil prices have only recently started biting and the relatively high sterling/mark rate has been crystallised in the ERM. Not surprisingly, Sir Denys Henderson, ICI's chairman, is not looking for any respite.

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TEMPUS

Static and loss on Philips' airwaves keeps investors from tuning in

tomers, it printed a leaflet, explaining the tax and giving information on rebates.

This approach is characteristic of N Brown which, despite its sophisticated computer network, wants customers to view it as a small, paternalistic company, the mail order equivalent of the corner shop.

N Brown, where the chairman, Sir David Alliance, has a controlling stake, has carved a niche for itself by marketing products directly to people who are least well served by the high street shops — older people, larger people and disabled people.

It has capitalised on this by refining its data base to such an extent that it has an accurate picture of each individual customer and an idea of their requirements. Instead of one large catalogue, it produces a range of smaller titles aimed at specific groups.

This approach means that it has weathered the downturn in the mail order business better than most and given it margins of 10 per cent.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 1 rose 6.3 per cent to £5.5 million. Sales rose 11.2 per cent to £53.1 million and earnings per share 9.3 per cent to 6.25p.

The interim dividend is increased 4.5 per cent to 1.65p.

The financial services and property business made some recovery compared with the second half of last year but fell from £600,000 to £400,000 when compared with the first half of last year.

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It's lonely at
the top,
but at least
there's
something
to read.

The Economist

MOTORING

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

Jam today, stress tomorrow

The collective blood pressure of commuters must have been close to bursting point in the last few days as their frustration and anger built up in some of the worst traffic jams of the year on the M1. I know, because I was among them.

On Tuesday, a lorry split its load of hydro-bromic acid, forcing the closure of the motorway at its busiest time. Then, on Wednesday, another lorry dropped its load at junction 12, just an hour after emergency teams had cleared the previous day's blockade.

The accidents did much to expose the fragile existence of commuters who rely on the main M1 north-south link to London. An estimated 120,000 cars a day travel to London, most during the three hours after 7am.

That was about the time the M1 was hit on both days, halting thousands of drivers, many of whom were on business. About 75 per cent of the traffic into London comprises company cars, vans

and lorries. Medical experts worry that the stress on drivers caught in such traffic jams, which were up to 25 miles long on Tuesday, is a potential killer. Even before reaching a traffic jam, many drivers are in danger. The Health Promotion Research Trust says drivers who have an argument at home or office are five times more likely to have an accident during the next six hours.

Dr Ian Glendon, at the applied psychology division of Aston University, Birmingham, says: "It is ironic that sitting in a traffic jam lowers the immediate risk of a crash."

"There must, however, be increased liability from that sort of severe stress. People in traffic jams

will oscillate between a feeling of total helplessness and rage."

Long-term stress also leads to poor performance at work, then to related illnesses, such as heart disease.

A survey by Dr Glendon found that jams and a disrupted time schedule were high on the list of frustrations. Other causes were bad weather, bad behaviour by other motorists, and worries at home and work.

All drivers under stress exhibit similar symptoms: aggressive driving, for example, and frustration and irritation which is when trouble starts. Newspapers this week published a picture of a traffic-jammed motorist who had started a brawl when he kicked another driver.

The Health Promotion Research Trust is so worried by the problem that it is circulating a leaflet to employers, encouraging them to spot stress in their drivers before it gets out of control.

Employers, the trust says, should offer more driver training, make sure drivers plan journeys to allow for potential trouble spots, give them maps and guides and offer regular health checks.

Drivers can help themselves with a few simple rules:

- Go through a week's driving record. Chart likely stress areas.
- Drive more slowly; often a cruise on the inside lanes of a motorway at 70mph is quicker than an outside-lane approach.
- Listen to music or go home – anything to ease the pressure.
- It is better to arrive relaxed, even if late, than tired, bedraggled and bursting with rage – or worse still, not to arrive at all because stress led to a deadly mistake.

Health Promotion Research Trust, 49-53 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1AB (0233-696361).

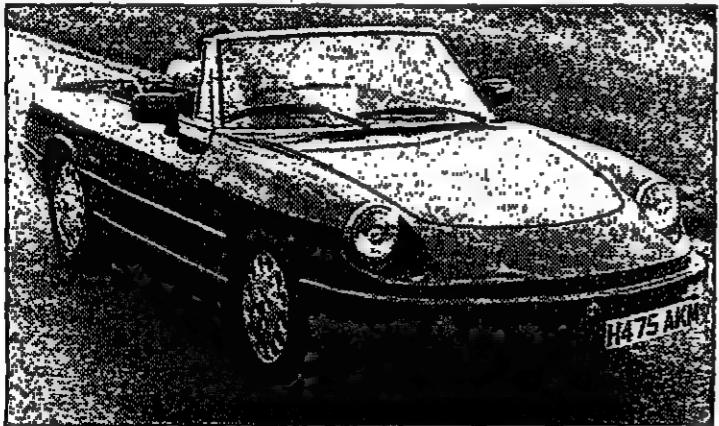
Brain takes the strain

IN THE time it would have taken Concorde to reach New York, I drove five miles through the worst traffic jam in Britain this week. Overall, it took six hours to drive from Rugby, Warwickshire, to the east London offices of *The Times* on Tuesday because the M1 was closed in both directions between junctions nine and 11. This was my journey:

- 8.30am: M1 strangely deserted as I turn south, auguring well.
- 9.05am: Three lanes of traffic at Toddington services by 11am; I have covered two miles.
- 12.20pm: Five miles completed in three hours and 15 minutes. Leave M1 at junction 11; just as congested. Head for Luton to St Albans. Congratulate myself on smart move.
- 1.15pm: Luton choked. Not a smart move. Head for Hatfield and A1.
- 1.45pm: Success. Hit the A1 and it is clear.
- 1.55pm: Heading for M25. Three lanes jammed. Roadworks causing congestion.
- 2.10pm: London at last. Now really moving.
- 2.50pm: I arrive, exhausted. Southbound M1 carriageway was closed overnight, only to be badly affected by another accident on Wednesday. No problem for me. I took the train.



At last, the Spider feels right for Britain



Eighteen special conversion of the latest Alfa Romeo Spider

ONE of the world's most glamorous little sports cars is changing sides from left to right for the benefit of British enthusiasts.

Alfa Romeo has been insistent that it would not sanction unofficial conversions to right-hand drive of its Spider, no doubt putting off a number of drivers who would like to buy the car but do not want the difficulties of sitting on the "blind" side.

TKM Automotive, the British Alfa distributor, has decided to take the step itself through its division, Seaking Group, based at Sheppen in Kent.

For an extra £1,950 on top of the purchase cost of £16,550,

Seaking will turn the Spider's controls to the opposite side so that British drivers can happily enjoy glorious "wind in the hair" motoring.

Howard Charlton, Seaking's operations director, said this week that what had worried TKM and Alfa was that some conversions involved cutting and welding the existing left-hand drive components. The Seaking conversion offers an unconditional one-year guarantee.

"This is not only the most technically sophisticated conversion available to British motorists but also the least expensive," Mr Charlton says. "We replace safety-

related parts with high quality, right-hand drive components manufactured by engineering specialists."

Although the Spider looks terrific, performance is not outstanding, being closer to a standard saloon car than a true sport car. Top speed from the 120bhp, four-cylinder, two-litre engine is 119mph, and 0-60mph takes 9.2 seconds. Petrol consumption, at 26.2mpg, is not especially frugal.

Nevertheless, the chance of a conversion, and about 250 will be carried out annually, means that an exclusive club of drivers can enjoy the glamour of the classic Pininfarina design.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Safety at work can keep firms alive

THE death of an employee can cause the death of a small company, the Health and Safety Executive has warned firms.

"Preventing an employee from being maimed or killed is not just a legal and moral duty, it can also be sound business sense and the chance of a small firm surviving after a serious workplace accident may well be no greater than the victim's," said Tony Lineham, the executive's chief inspector of factories.

Mr Lineham has written a report for small firms showing that attention to health and safety makes good economic sense, especially for companies where employees are the most precious resource.

One example in the report was a garage owner who sprayed a vehicle with toxic paint without having adequate ventilation or breathing apparatus. His health was so badly affected that he had to give up the business. His four staff lost their jobs and he is unlikely to work again.

In another case, a firm asked the HSE for advice about rebuilding a mill. The inspector was able to suggest a less substantial building, which would improve safety. This saved the company £60,000.

HSE research shows that employees in manufacturing companies employing less than 50 people are about 20 per cent more at risk than those working at establishments with 100 to 1,000 people, and 40 per cent more likely to have an accident than at companies with more than 1,000 employees. These figures are believed to underestimate the higher risk

to small companies, where accidents are often not reported.

There are nearly 100 fatal accidents a year in manufacturing industries and more than 7,500 serious injuries.

Martin Taylor, HSE area director for Newcastle, said: "We have carried out 1,850 visits and in some cases, the conditions were so bad that we had to issue prohibition notices and improvement notices. Legal proceedings are being considered in some cases and there are plans to follow up the worst offenders. However, in general, we found that most employers were trying to attain good standards of health and safety, although many lacked real knowledge of what they should be doing."

Safety Pays is available free from the HSE in London, Sheffield and Bootle, Merseyside.

MB FRIDAY



"My annual turnover? — It's being turned over once a year by you lot!"

By DAVID THURLOW

PAUL Hunt found the answer to his quest for a business idea on the wall of a room. A simple, Victorian landscape sculpture in plaster relief, unpainted but attractive, caught his imagination.

Mr Hunt decided to use modern technology to turn the old-style of plaque into something that people would want to buy for their homes now.

Three years after forming Brush Strokes, in Maryport, Cumbria, the company has a turnover of nearly £1 million a year and produces 7,000 plaques a week that sell all over the world.

Mr Hunt, aged 44, a former GEC electronics engineer, became a gifts salesman when he was made redundant in the Seventies. He left his £16,500 a year job to set up Brush Strokes.

He said: "In the 1840s and 1850s, oval or round white plaster plaques in high relief with no frame were very popular items to have on your wall."

Mr Hunt and Maxine Breda, his production director, tried out his idea by making rubber moulds in the kitchen sink of their home in Cockermouth. He started with eight scenes from the Lake District with countryside and sunshine painted on.

He cashed in his £7,000 worth of insurance policies and sought as much advice as he could through government schemes.

Mr Hunt was given a £40 a week Enterprise Allowance then went to the west Cumbria development agency to learn business techniques.

The bank allowed him an overdraft of £2,000 and he rented



Winning idea: Paul Hunt working on one of the plaques that has made Brush Strokes a success

a 2,000 sq ft factory in Maryport for £4,000 a year with the help of a regional development grant.

Brush Strokes started with a staff of six, including a sculptor, in February 1988, making the plaques from rubber moulds dried in two large dehumidifying units, rented at £20 a week each. The process is the same now, but instead Mr Hunt has a £25,000 oven, and each plaque is individually painted after baking.

So enormous has been the demand this year that Brush

Strokes makes 74 different plaques, including Coronation Street's Rover's Return for Granada television, and six London scenes are planned for next year.

The company now has 32 full-time staff and 100 part-time employees, who produce more than 5,000 plaques a week.

Export markets include Europe, Australasia, Japan, Canada and America, and the company is preparing to move into a new 15,000 square foot factory.

Brush Strokes is geared up for a

reciprocal arrangement with a Canadian giftware company that specialises in pewterware.

Brush Strokes is preparing for 1992, arranging agencies on the Continent, and with a sales staff already fluent in French, German and Italian.

Mr Hunt said: "The future looks excellent. We want more of the export market because we feel that it is wide open for our product. Many people want to have a little piece of England on their wall."

BRIEFINGS

■ A COMMERCIAL mortgage trust allows businesses to add up to half the interest payment on the amount borrowed, has been introduced by Business Loans. Borrowers elect to pay 10 or 12 per cent interest. The actual charge will be 2 to 4.5 per cent above the London inter-bank offered rate, according to the degree of risk, with the difference added to the capital borrowed. The minimum advance is £100,000 and the maximum is £4 million. Borrowers are allowed 70 per cent of the value of the property and the loan is reviewed annually to ensure that it does not rise above 90 per cent of the value. Those wishing more information can contact Jeffery Gilbert by telephoning 021-712 3805.

■ DURHAM University Business School has produced a two-volume publication called *The Small Business Resource Bank*, which covers the periods from idea to start up to growth. The package aims to advise, guide, and train people setting up and running businesses. The price is £90 for one volume and £170 for both. Further details can be obtained by telephoning 0223 356295.

■ BRITAIN'S chambers of commerce have unveiled plans to match levels of business support available through their counterparts in continental Europe. Recognising that business support in the chambers of commerce has tended to be patchy and fragmented, the network has set itself the target of developing into a large scale comprehensive business support organisation by restructuring and expanding between now and 1994. The current 110 chambers will become 70 larger ones. Plans include the creation of a national electronic information network and database, new export services and better staff training. A brochure called *Effective Business Support*, which costs £5, is available from the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 212 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2.

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As the legal job market contracts, Edward Fennell reveals new horizons for young solicitors

Corporate lawyers take over the driving seat

Over the past six months the legal recruitment market has lost some of its gloss. Although there is still a good supply of jobs with firms of solicitors, there is nothing like the surfeit which dominated the appointments pages a year or so ago. There has also been a significant drop in demand from employers in the financial services industry which, in the late Eighties, threatened to lure away young lawyers from their vocation.

Talented young graduates and newly qualified solicitors can still relish the prospect of a prosperous and exciting future, but young lawyers in general must expect to face greater competition and a more rigorous examination of their skills.

While the legal recruitment market has contracted, it has also become more complex, and this is a good opportunity for the newly qualified to examine some of the less common routes to career progression.

New trends which work to the advantage of the young lawyer have been noticed by the Robert Walters Agency, which specialises in legal opportunities away from conventional practice. "As the fees of the large London firms have increased, many of their clients are trying to do more of their legal work in-house," says

Sir Graham Day (right), the chairman of the Rover Group and Cadbury Schweppes, is typical of the ambitious corporate careerists who used legal skills to kick-start their climb to the top

Jayne Bowtell, the manager of Robert Walters' legal division. "As a result, there is a growing demand in the corporate sector for young lawyers."

"Whereas companies have traditionally employed lots of accountants but relatively few lawyers, we are now seeing a change in attitude, with clients wanting to become less reliant on external legal advice."

If this trend continues, it could signal an interesting development in legal opportunities. While the pattern is well established for chartered accountants to transfer into general management and then climb to the top of the corporate structure, this is much

less usual for lawyers. In North America things are different: it is the lawyers who frequently end up at the helm of big corporations. Sir Graham Day, aged 57, the Canadian-born chairman of both the Rover Group and Cadbury Schweppes, is typical of the ambitious corporate careerists who used legal skills to kick-start their climb to the top.

If young British solicitors are going to imitate Sir Graham's success, however, they need a wider range of attributes than is conventionally required of a lawyer on this side of the Atlantic.

"In the corporate world, people will take your legal advice seriously only if you have an impres-

sive personality and can show that you have good business acumen," Ms Bowtell says. "Your colleagues do not want only legal advice, they want business advice, and it is important to provide both."

Before venturing into the corporate world, therefore, young lawyers should ensure that they have the stomach, the personality and the business flair for the job.

One of the attractions of the big City practices is that they have provided a comfortable refuge for the academically minded. Such attributes can lead to a partnership in a big firm of solicitors but are unlikely to impress sufficiently in the bruising world of business. So while opportunities in the corporate world beckon, be sure of your own strengths before you apply for a job.

This advice also applies to the increasing number of opportunities, particularly with American firms, in Brussels, which now beckons seductively as another new horizon for the young lawyer. During a visit to the Euro-capital last week, Ms Bowtell was impressed by the number of vacancies American firms have for European-educated and trained lawyers. Belgians and British, in particular, are in demand but, again, legal skills alone are not

Trend spotter: Jayne Bowtell, a recruiter, has detected a growing need for young corporate lawyers

enough. "American law firms are falling over each other to pick up good people, but to stand any chance of success you must have languages to offer, and you need to have had good European experience as a trainee."

Not surprisingly, German is the preferred language among American recruiters, so those who hope to get by on O-level French should think again.

Remember, too, that the work

ethic and the corporate culture of American firms is not for the faint-hearted. As a non-American you may have to work doubly hard to prove yourself, and gaining partnership status may be

more difficult as a "locally re-

cruited" member of staff. Nevertheless, Brussels may well prove the place to be in the Nineties. Perhaps more than any other centre it is going to develop a cosmopolitan legal community, as not just British and American law firms grow but increasingly German, Benelux and French firms start to invest there.

Now is clearly the best time to get a toehold there. The firms are opening up, the recruiters are on the lookout, and the scope is not only for the provision of legal services.

Lawyers are also likely to play an increasing role in lobbying the European Commission, so this could be a fast route into the Euro experiment.

There are almost certain to be some casualties in Brussels over the next few years and those firms which are not doing solid, fee-earning work are likely to be the most vulnerable.

Make sure you do not become a dispensable guinea-pig in some Manhattan lawyer's poorly planned Euro experiment.



Jayne Bowtell, a recruiter, has detected a growing need for young corporate lawyers

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For an informal discussion, telephone David Incoll, from the Personnel Section,

RACING

Britain must broaden horizons

ANGELA Burson has one of the better records and sharper brains in British tennis. She was the beaten finalist in the 1986 women's singles and also won the French and Wimbledon doubles, with Althea Gibson, that year — the highlights of a career that, in the 1980s and 1990s, would have made her a national heroine.

Now, she runs a tennis consultancy in north London and travels the world, helping young players and studying how the best brains in tennis are developing the game.

The Times invited her opinions on what the rest of the world is doing — and how Britain can learn.

First, the Americans:

"In the last decade, the United States Tennis Association has been faced with similar problems we in Britain have experienced — very little durable talent to take over from the 'old' brigade such as Evert, Connors and McEnroe. We could learn a lot from what the Americans are doing, particularly in physical and mental conditioning."

"I could have argued before the US Open last month that, with teenagers like Michael Chang and Jennifer Capriati, the Americans had little to worry about."

"However, on a closer look at Chang, you will notice that at only 18 and with one hip operation already behind him, he has fallen into the trap of over-playing, having still not finished growing."

"In the case of the phenomenal 14-year-old Capriati, I feel sure that it was more by luck than judgment that she managed to overcome Anke Huber, the 16-year-old German, in the first round at Flushing Meadow, let alone challenge Steffi Graf later on."

"It was fortunate for Capriati that this match was played at night, under lights on the stadium centre court, and in front of her home crowd — all points to her distinct advantage. Capriati has terrific potential but, to my eye, Huber has looked decidedly the more talented and spirited player — a better tennis brain, in fact, for the future."

Becker, Graf and now Huber ... how are the Germans developing such talent?

"At the US Open, Huber was accompanied by Klaus Hoisaas, Germany's national women's coach, and Boris Breskvar, her regional coach. Breskvar was behind both Becker and Graf; he received little acclaim for either, although they both came from south Germany, near Breskvar's tennis centre in Leimen."

"It was Breskvar who originally noticed the great delight Becker enjoyed at seven years of age, jumping and diving for balls, so he brought in an acrobat to develop and train that aspect of his game."

"In the case of Graf, Breskvar x-rayed her wrists and ankles as a young girl to indicate her ultimate height as an adult. In doing so, he discovered that, if certain



strengthening exercises were not undertaken as she grew up, she might have weak ankles.

"For five years, Breskvar worked very closely with Professor Herman Reider, director of sport science at Heidelberg University, to help both Becker and Graf with repeated psychological and motivational tests and studies, encouraging them to play not only tennis but other ball games as well."

Breskvar encourages an all-court game, with particular emphasis on the style for which a given player is best suited, not only by physique but also by personality. His attention these days is turned to another batch of up-and-coming youngsters, including Huber."

Is the Breskvar system being exported?

"The increasing influence of mental preparation is shown by the presence of Renate Geisser, who until June this year was head of development and sport science in the German Tennis Federation, at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida.

Geisser told me she was

hoping for a work permit

which would allow her to take

up a new position as director

of research to the sports

psychologist. Dr Jim Loehr,

Bollettieri's academic, over the

years, has helped in the

development of Agassi, Krickstein, Seles, Sabatini and many others.

"I was well aware of the

importance placed on sport

science and research at

Bollettieri's centre, and the

appointment of Geisser has

reinforced it.

"Only a few months earlier, Gabriela Sabatini, in her

desperation to avoid slipping

further down the world

rankings, had sought personal

advice from Dr Loehr.

Working closely with her

coach, Carlos Kirmayr,

Loehr was not only to

turn the tide of her suspect

self-confidence but also to

motivate her sufficiently for

her to want to make a change

in her game outlook and

become a distinctly more

aggressive player.

"In the defeat of both Mary

Joe Fernandez in the semi-

finals and Graf in the final of

the US Open, Sabatini has

obviously used well-recognised

self-esteem techniques in

fulfilling her potential — despite her ungainly style and natural heavy mobility.

"He recognised that all

parents really wanted were

three things — their children

to be happy, their children to

fulfil their potential, and to

spend a phenomenal amount

of time and money to make

1 and No. 2 happen!"

"He now suggests that

every coach responsible for a

serious young competitive

player should spend a minimum

of seven chargeable hours

with the parents off-court, under session titles

such as "Profiling the par-

tent", "Problem-solving the

tough issues" and "Putting it

all in writing".

The French have far more

facilities than the British. Are

they improving?

"In France, the abundance

of beautiful clay courts seems

to have produced players with

vastly bigger leg, arm and

thigh muscles. On the evi-

dence at the French cham-

pionships this year, 15, 16

and 17-year-old continental

players brought up on clay

had far more developed phy-

siques than British boys of

the same age. They resembled

our 22-year-olds.

"Perhaps it is because a

competitive rally on a clay

court lasts about ten seconds,

while the same rally on a

grass court clocks up only 1.5

seconds.

"Grass-court play, as

pleasurable as it is, really is an

impractical surface for tennis.

It is the time for tennis.

"The LTA national coach,

Charles Applewhite, has

applied for a grant, and he has

taken on board a former

coach, Paul Dent, to assist

him if and when it is

accepted.

"Dent already has a sports

science degree. Applewhite

says that talent identification

is part of his national plan for

the development of

excellence.

"These are some of the

questions he wants answered:

1. How do we identify and

develop talent? 2. Are we

actually working with the

right talent in the first place?

3. Are we looking at players

too young? 4. What about the

talent developers? 5. How do

we screen this information?"

Can Britain catch up with

the new trends in tennis?

"I feel that a change can be

effected, providing the

motivation, desire and talent

is present in the first place.

In British tennis, money should

no longer be an issue. In any

case, as Ann Jones, who was

earlier this year put in the

value of British tennis, said:

"Money alone won't

inspire our young players."

"We need information and

encouragement in the hands

of as many as possible and then let the talent take over."

Next: The frustration of a

British coach



Backhanded compliment: Huber, of Germany, who was unlucky to lose to Capriati in the US Open first round

Carson confident for journey into unknown territory

FROM MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

AS BREEDERS' Cup tension continued to mount on a sharp and sunny morning at Belmont Park yesterday, Dayjur impressed work watchers in a half-mile spin on the dirt track, over which the European star will attempt to become the world champion sprinter tomorrow.

Willie Carson, wearing a white mackintosh jacket and an orange and white quartered cap, rode Dayjur with Stirling Sword, skippered by Tony Skiffington, in whose stable the British horse is stabled. The horse started to increase pace after a furlong and Dayjur quickened impressively to go clear after

leaving the bend.

Ladbrokes and William Hills

are still offering Dayjur at an absurdly cramped price of 6-4,

presumably because British

punters are prepared to wager at

these odds. But looking at the

picture over here, 5-2 or better

would seem to be a more

realistic price.

In the Breeders' Cup Mile, the event which the Europeans look

to have a good chance of

winning, Ladbrokes have cut

the price of Scintillate from 100-

1 to 4-1. They then go 5-1

against Red Rain and Royal

Academy, 6-1 Priolo and 7-1

Markofinction.

The ground on the turf track

is still soft after the recent rains

Strong brew behind Australia

By DAVID POWELL

THERE are some facts in sport which are indisputable, some of which are not statistics. One is that the Australian rugby league team comprises hard men, who are even harder to beat on the field of play. Great Britain have not emerged victorious in an international series with them for 20 years and, against the heaviest Australian team yet, they will try to rectify that, starting at Wembley tomorrow. The Australians have been in England for almost a month preparing for this day.

Despite training twice every 24 hours, the Australians have been doing a fair bit of hopping around to take their minds off the task in hand. However, always training has come first — after a 24-hour flight, their first job on arrival was a seven-mile run before bedtime — but there is more to a tour than manoeuvres, conditioning and matches.

First on the shopping list was a refrigerator; second was something to put in it. If ever a team sponsorship was made in heaven, it was Castlemeaine XXXX and the Australian rugby league team. This takes five cases of lager a day to oil the parts that some of Britain's best tacklers will not be able to reach tomorrow. The brew has been specially imported, the one back home is stronger than the one made here.

For the man from the marketing company assigned to keep the touring team entertained and occasionally away from the fridge, the pace has been demanding. Golf, dog racing, horse racing, theatre, sightseeing and football.

Last Saturday, it was Manchester United v Arsenal. Many of the party had never been to a football match, but they liked what they saw, especially the bit involving 21 players and no ball.

That was more like home. Against Wakefield a fortnight ago, the Australians had three players sent off. "I must admit it was the most exciting part of the game for us," Sean McRae, the assistant coach, said. "It was written by your

players and not by me."

The British forces in the Gulf do not have a monopoly on men leaving behind their brides of less than a day.

Glenn Lazarus, a prop forward, was married on the Saturday and on a plane to Britain on the Sunday.

There has been little thought for the folks back home. The tourists have looked unbeatable in their five warm-up games. "We have got through our preliminary matches fairly comfortably, building up slowly to take off this weekend," McRae said.

"The spirit is great and the players who have not made it into the pool for Saturday are still training hard."

"We are aware that the British game has improved — the defence has got better and

the attacking play has never been under question. They are taking a more professional approach which is what happened in Australian 10 seasons ago."

By day, the players are pulling sledges, by night it is punts. The professional edge to the tour — apart from winning a three-match series — is to promote Castlemeaine XXXX. "I have to make sure they perform the terms of their contract — it's not hard," the man from the marketing company said. "I get more volunteers than I have places in my car."

In the background, the

attacking play has never been under question. They are taking a more professional approach which is what happened in Australian 10 seasons ago."

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To a man, the tourists have enjoyed their week in London. "The buildings are so beautiful and half of them were here before our country was even discovered," Collis said. "The only thing we don't like is the traffic — it's unbelievable." Tomorrow, they are looking to

build their own one-way system. Publicly, the Australians say they expect a hard match privately, they do not expect their road to a series victory to be blocked.

● The Australian half back, Ricky Stuart, will make his first international appearance against Great Britain on Saturday. Stuart, aged 23, has been called into the side at stand-off half because of the injury to his Canberra colleague, Laurie Daley. Daley has been ruled out after breaking a hand in last Sunday's victory over Leeds.

Stuart said: "It's a great honour to be playing for Australia in such a prestigious game but I feel sorry for Laurie. I know how much playing at Wembley meant to him but this is a great chance for me and I am really looking forward to the occasion."

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GOLF

Concentration gives Torrance victory over tricky greens

From MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

SAM Torrance yesterday demonstrated his professionalism in more ways than one as he put together a first round of 69, two under par, for the lead in the Volvo Masters on the Valderrama course here.

First, the Scot was compelled to digest the disappointment of marking a five on his card at the short 6th, despite hitting a superb seven-iron off the tee to within 12 feet of the hole.

Then, after a marvellous recovery, which included four birdies in succession from the 8th, Torrance spoke out on the decision by the PGA European Tour to invite the professionals to repair spike marks on leaving the rain-softened greens. "I've got too much on my mind to go looking for spike marks," Torrance said. "I don't think I've ever played a more demanding course than this one because you have to concentrate so hard it's unbelievable."

The tour had responded to a request for players to be allowed to tap down the spike marks because the fast, un-

Card of the course

hole	Yds	Par	hole	Yds	Par
1	367	4	10	404	5
2	410	4	11	551	5
3	560	4	12	216	4
4	563	4	13	267	4
5	372	4	14	360	4
6	154	4	15	228	4
7	162	4	16	261	4
8	349	4	17	569	5
9	454	4	18	458	5
Out	3,338	35	In	3,615	36

Total 72.75% Par 71

dulating greens have such a thin top surface that it becomes trickier to putt on them with every group that plays through. John Paramor, the tournament director, said: "I do recognise that there is a problem and we even consider rolling the greens after each group had left them."

Many professionals feel there is a case this week for a rule to tap down spike marks to be introduced. David Feherty said: "These are the best greens I've ever seen in my entire life until you walk on them. I'm not an agronomist, but they do have a problem. But it seems to me to be a pointless request to ask us to repair greens or leave them. We are not out here to help each other. We are pro-

SCORES FROM SOTOGRANDE

FIRST ROUND (GB and Ireland unless stated): 1st S. Torrance, 70; M. Harwood (Aus); 2nd J. Paramor, S. Richardson, G. Turner, R. Referty, 72; E. Darby, J. Rutledge (Can); C. O'Connor, Jr., B. Lerner (USA); M. Morris, D. Williams, T. M. Larmer (USA); H. Clegg, A. Lyle, M. Clayton (Aus); J. Sted (SA); J. M. Calzada (Esp); M. McNulty (Ire); T. Woosnam, R. Chapman, T. Johnson.

Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, is the only player who can dislodge Woosnam from the No. 1 place in the 1990 Volvo Order of Merit, although to do so must wait. He finished with a 73 after dropping two shots in the last three holes.

Woosnam finished with a 74, although with the scoring being generally high he has not lost hope of winning and taking his European earnings this season to £745,507. If he should, he will increase his career earnings to £2,231,240 and overtake Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo.

MICKEY WALKER, the European Solheim Cup captain, here to keep up with her team, looks to have had one of her problems resolved, to wit, Laura Davies's lack of form. It is a thing of the past, if a first round of 63, six under par, in the AGF Open yesterday is anything to go by.

Davies, whose confidence had sunk to below spike-level with a series of above-par performances, had seven birdies and dropped only one shot at the 18th hole. She beamed her way round one of her favourite courses, delighting herself and an appreciative audience. "It's like playing with God," Trish Johnson, her playing partner, who shot a 69, commented. "She's back to her best."

From PATRICIA DAVIES IN BIARRITZ

MICKEY WALKER, the European Solheim Cup captain, here to keep up with her team, looks to have had one of her problems resolved, to wit, Laura Davies's lack of form. It is a thing of the past, if a first round of 63, six under par, in the AGF Open yesterday is anything to go by.

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"My worst round here is 68," I think," Davies, who won this title two years ago, said. "I love it. I had only 26 pars, the best I've putted in my life. The few little things I did wrong [the professional at West Belfast] said to me the other week were going to change the game. I feel I can play again. I was beginning to doubt myself and wonder if I'd lost it. I haven't."

With Davies having fun, Kelly Leadbetter and Karen Dallas, two of the less heralded players, also enjoyed a good day, with rounds of 68 and 69 respectively. Leadbetter said she had at last started listening to David, her husband, and Dallas has been working hard on a lesson from Corinne Dubnah.

Dallas also revived her morale with some new clothes from St Tropez. "I was getting bored with all the old stuff," she said.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 1st S. Torrance, 70; M. Harwood (Aus); 2nd J. Paramor, S. Richardson, G. Turner, R. Referty, 72; E. Darby, J. Rutledge (Can); C. O'Connor, Jr., B. Lerner (USA); M. Morris, D. Williams, T. M. Larmer (USA); H. Clegg, A. Lyle, M. Clayton (Aus); J. Sted (SA); J. M. Calzada (Esp); M. McNulty (Ire); T. Woosnam, R. Chapman, T. Johnson.

Geoff Marks, the British captain, tried to put a gloss on the day. "If you ignore Sweden," he said, "there are only six shots covering 12 countries, and there are 162 counting holes to go."

All the same, it was painful to follow the fortunes of three of

Swedes sit pretty after flying start

From JOHN HENNESSY IN CHRISTCHURCH

FIRST blood went emphatically to Sweden on the first day of the world amateur team championship at Shirley yesterday. With a score of 215, 10 under par, counting rounds out of four, they are seven points ahead of the second-place Americans.

New Zealand, Argentina and Korea. They also occupy first place in the individual standings through the 10, two under par, of Matthias Gronberg, the winner of the British youth championship at Southwicks during the summer.

As holders of the Eisenhower Trophy, Great Britain and Ireland were a particular focus of attention, but, disappointingly, they share tenth place on 228. Gary Evans alone justifying his reputation with a 74. So far as the supporting scores were concerned, it was a question of persuading any two from three, since Andrew Collett, Jim Milligan and Ricky Willison all scored 77.

The favourites, the United States, are only marginally better off. Their vaunted champion, Phil Mickelson, whose left-handed skills were noisy trumpeted in advance, suffered the humiliation of his score, 78, being discarded.

Geoff Marks, the British captain, tried to put a gloss on the day. "If you ignore Sweden," he said, "there are only six shots covering 12 countries, and there are 162 counting holes to go."

All the same, it was painful to follow the fortunes of three of

Cassells secures place

From CRAIG CASSELLS, who helped Great Britain and Ireland win the Walker Cup for the first time on American soil last year, passed his first real test as a professional yesterday when he won a place at the PGA European tour qualifying school.

Cassells compiled rounds of 69, three under par, and 73 over the El Bosque course near Valencia in Spain.

QUALIFIERS (GB and Ireland) started: 1st: Peter Dawson (Eng); 2nd: David Morris (Eng); 3rd: Samir Bhattacherjee (Eng); 4th: Olympics (Eng); 5th: Michael Bremner (Eng); 6th: Ian McPhail (Eng); 7th: Brian Gossage (Eng); 8th: Tony Hart (Eng); 9th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 10th: David Morris (Eng); 11th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 12th: David Morris (Eng); 13th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 14th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 15th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 16th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 17th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 18th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 19th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 20th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 21st: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 22nd: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 23rd: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 24th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 25th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 26th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 27th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 28th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 29th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 30th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 31st: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 32nd: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 33rd: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 34th: Alan P. Morris (Eng); 35th: Alan P. 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SPORT

Villa fly the flag with spectacular verve and valour

By DAVID MILLER

SOMETHING remarkable happened at Villa Park on Wednesday night. An English football team, with no pretensions to sophistication, reduced a famous foreign side trilling with international players to ordinary proportions. They did so not with negative stalling tactics but with an attacking bravado which took the opposition's breath away.

Aston Villa flew the flag for the English game, producing all the characteristics which for so long have been admired within other strongholds of football.

If English players have always tended to lack collective refinement by comparison over the past 40 years with the best of Europe and Latin America, nobody has had quite the same dynamic spirit when it is right.

It was this virtue which helped carry an otherwise average World Cup team to the semi-finals; and now, the cream of Germans and Italians in the ranks of Inter Milan, who had experienced the impact of David Platt during two of the last four matches in the summer, again had cause to renew their respect for English qualities.

As Giovanni Trapattoni, Inter's coach, observed: "European competition was mutilated without English teams. It is very good to have them back in European competition again; they have been missed. We knew that, in England, it is very difficult to impose your own style on the game. Villa gave a very strong performance."

Villa, in front of a crowd of 36,000, created a night that

was as spectacular for entertainment as anything we have seen in the past five seasons during England's absence from any team other than Inter's equally multi-national rivals, AC Milan.

Yet, there was one significant factor in Villa's two-goal victory in the first leg of the second round, that was not English: the influence of their new manager, Jozef Venglos, of Czechoslovakia.

Graham Taylor, analysing the match on television, said that the performance did not surprise him, a subtle accusation of the credits gained by a team which he bequeathed to Venglos.

Yet what was apparent, in a match which Villa dominated for 50 of the 90 minutes, was a growing capacity to play a thinking game, as well as to put Inter under constant, extreme pressure by the sheer exhilaration of their running and fair physical challenge.

Asked what he felt he had contributed to his team during the first four months, Venglos said he was "trying to get them to be more confident on the ball and in their passing". It showed.

Taylor, we know, was under-rewarded, at today's salary levels, while with Villa. Venglos, who was being paid during the World Cup finals, as national team coach, about the same as a London temp can earn, is receiving an even more modest salary.

I trust that if Villa win the tie, which well they may, Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, will suitably re-write Venglos's contract in recognition of his contribution so far.

The key to Villa's performance was, conspicuously, the pace of Daley down one or other wing, turning Ferri, Bergomi or Brehme, experienced internationals all, this way and that; and also the drive of Platt, punching through from midfield with Berti and Pizzoli trailing in his wake.

Most critical of all was Venglos's decision to use Eirich as man-for-man warden on Matthäus, who was reduced for much of the match to a spectator.

Seldom in the Italian league do Inter find themselves confronted with resilience conducted at such pace. Birch was sometimes involved in both penalty areas within a matter of seconds.

Trapattoni added that, though the second leg would be extremely difficult for his side, he believed they could score twice in 90 minutes; that they had played well for 20 minutes in each half on Wednesday; that Klinsmann should have scored; and that, provided they controlled Daley at San Siro, the tie was anything but over.

In two weeks, Villa will hope to have McGrath back in defence, and they will need him. The first leg was turned by Platt's stunning second goal, but for which Inter, increasingly coherent, might have gone home with a draw.

The final memory of Wednesday will be Venglos saying that his satisfaction was the quality of the game rather than the result, "which is always open". Here is a man who can help re-educate our football; including, perhaps, a few directors.



Indignant Ferrari threaten to abandon Formula One

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

A THREAT that Ferrari may quit Formula One motor racing unless the governing body fails to curb the sort of driving behaviour which has marred the last two world championships was voiced yesterday by Cesare Romiti, the managing director of Fiat, the parent company of the Italian racing team.

In an interview with the daily newspaper, *Gazzetta dello Sport*, he said that Ferrari are ready to take drastic decisions, including abandoning Formula One altogether, unless the appropriate action is taken. He was clearly incensed that the

chances of Alain Prost, the Ferrari driver, retaining his world championship ended the moment he was in collision with Ayrton Senna's McLaren-Honda in the opening seconds of the Japanese grand prix. Retirement of both cars meant that Senna was the new champion.

Romiti said: "We do not feel part of this world without rules. We are not willing to sacrifice capital, men and work to build the best car and see it knocked out at the first turn."

"The world championship has been decided by accidents for two consecutive seasons. I

am aware that the bitter duels between rival drivers are part of the thrill of Formula One races, but high risks require drastic rules."

A year ago, when Senna tried to pass Prost in the Japanese race and Prost closed the door on him, the two cars tangled and although Senna was able to continue and crossed the line in first place, he was subsequently disqualified for rejoining the track incorrectly and heavily fined for alleged dangerous driving. His disqualification meant that Prost was the champion.

Last weekend, although the championship situation was reversed, the accident was similar in so far as once again Senna came from behind into a closing gap. Although uninterested that the world championship had again been decided in an unsatisfactory way, Balesire, who was in Paris at the time, took an open view of the incident, rightly leaving it to judges on the spot to make their own decision.

It is expected that Balesire will respond to Romiti's remarks without delay. Nearing the end of a season when there have been far too many accidents because of bad driving, a tightening of discipline would be widely welcomed.

Zaitsev, six times ice skating world champion and twice the winner of an Olympic gold medal, has been engaged by two young Britons to help them win the national pairs' title at Basingstoke next month. For Daniel Hunt, aged 16, and Neil Herring, 20, it will be their first championship contest. Their parents are footings the bill.

Zaitsev took to the ice immediately after arriving from Moscow yesterday, since time is short. "In ten days, I cannot perform a miracle, but they were with me in the Soviet Union in June and were quick learners, both from

Peix said that the commission's decision on Wednesday vindicated the city's aim to hold Olympic equestrian events as originally planned. "It also means we can start trading horses with the rest of Europe in a few days," he said. Under EC regulations horses may not leave an infected area until certified free of the disease.

The plague has hit the entire southern region of Andalusia, killing more than 200 animals since early September, and the border region with Portugal. Some 1,000 horses were killed in an outbreak in Andalusia last year.

Catalonia, Barcelona's region,

throw jumps. "Danny never bottles out. She'll either do it or die," Herring said.

Despite her youth, Hunt has been toughened by 12 years competition, the last six at Lee Valley under the tutelage of Mudge. "I'm learning Russian as we expect to go there again," she said.

Zaitsev entered skating's hall of fame through a similar crash course. At the Sapporo Olympics in 1972, Irina Rodnina discovered her partner, Aleksandr Ulanov, was courting another Soviet. The gold medal won, she dumped Ulanov and paired up with Zaitsev for the most successful partnership in skating history.

Barcelona cleared of plague

BARCELONA (Reuters)

The European Community has declared Barcelona free of African horse plague after an outbreak of the disease threatened Olympic Games equestrian events to be held in the city in 1992.

Jordi Peix, the food industries director in the Catalan regional government, said yesterday that the EC Veterinary Commission had listed 22 Spanish provinces hit by the plague but cleared the rest of the country, including

Catalonia, Barcelona's region.

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The International Equestrian Federation meets in Barcelona on November 17 to recommend whether the equestrian Games should be held in Catalonia. The final decision will be taken by the executive board of the International Olympic Committee, which meets in Norway in December.

Steady Stewart quickly settles into his stride

LILAC HILL, Western Australia — Alex Stewart and John Morris arrived in Australia last week knowing that if either was to force his way into the England team to contest the Ashes, an early show of form would be crucial to their plans. Yesterday, both contenders for a probable single middle-order vacancy among England's batsmen began, promisingly, to put their cases.

Stewart and Morris master-minded an ultimately straightforward England "win" in the opening match of the tour, beating a Western Australian President's XI at Lilac Hill in Western Australia by six wickets, but they had to first hold together, an English innings which at one point appeared to be on the verge of collapse.

Openers, Mike Atherton and Wayne Larkins, were both in the pavilion before the English innings had reached double figures, in reply to their hosts' 207 for seven, and then Allan Lamb and David Gower departed in quick succession. A solid and stylish unbeaten partnership of 143 runs calmed the tourists' nerves and gave Stewart, who scored 70, and Morris, with 68, the early filling to their confidence each had been looking for.

For Stewart, in particular, victory was sweet. The Sussex batsman spent seven winters playing for Midland-Guildford, a club based at Lilac Hill, and the locals had not forgotten him. A banner with the greeting "Welcome back Alex" was erected on top of a temporary stand at the ground.

"It was nice for me to score some runs in front of so many people I know and like," Stewart, whose innings included nine fours, said afterwards. "But the important thing was to help the side get away to a winning start. John and I knew we had to bat through if we could and take the responsibility.

The pair took the initiative as well: Morris contributed his 68 from just 71 balls, and with the bowlers unable to make any breakthrough, England eased home with seven overs to spare.

Yet, earlier, the President's XI had caused problems. The promising young fast bowler, Chris Mack, had worked Atherton's back and bowled him 93-37. Turnell 10-1-68-0.

ENGLAND XI

M A Atherton D Banton —
W Anderson c Atherton b Small —
T M Moody not out —
M F Lumb run out —
M J Morris b Small 18
T Watson b Lewis 10
B Atherton b Watson 10
J Anderson b Watson 20
Extras (6 w, 12 n, 10 b) 20
Total (7 wkt, 47 overs) 206

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-63, 3-63, 4-100, 5-180, 6-165, 7-185, 8-195, 9-200, 10-200, 11-200, 12-200, 13-200, 14-200, 15-200, 16-200, 17-200, 18-200, 19-200, 20-200, 21-200, 22-200, 23-200, 24-200, 25-200, 26-200, 27-200, 28-200, 29-200, 30-200, 31-200, 32-200, 33-200, 34-200, 35-200, 36-200, 37-200, 38-200, 39-200, 40-200, 41-200, 42-200, 43-200, 44-200, 45-200, 46-200, 47-200, 48-200, 49-200, 50-200, 51-200, 52-200, 53-200, 54-200, 55-200, 56-200, 57-200, 58-200, 59-200, 60-200, 61-200, 62-200, 63-200, 64-200, 65-200, 66-200, 67-200, 68-200, 69-200, 70-200, 71-200, 72-200, 73-200, 74-200, 75-200, 76-200, 77-200, 78-200, 79-200, 80-200, 81-200, 82-200, 83-200, 84-200, 85-200, 86-200, 87-200, 88-200, 89-200, 90-200, 91-200, 92-200, 93-200, 94-200, 95-200, 96-200, 97-200, 98-200, 99-200, 100-200.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-63, 3-63, 4-100, 5-180, 6-165, 7-185, 8-195, 9-200, 10-200, 11-200, 12-200, 13-200, 14-200, 15-200, 16-200, 17-200, 18-200, 19-200, 20-200, 21-200, 22-200, 23-200, 24-200, 25-200, 26-200, 27-200, 28-200, 29-200, 30-200, 31-200, 32-200, 33-200, 34-200, 35-200, 36-200, 37-200, 38-200, 39-200, 40-200, 41-200, 42-200, 43-200, 44-200, 45-200, 46-200, 47-200, 48-200, 49-200, 50-200, 51-200, 52-200, 53-200, 54-200, 55-200, 56-200, 57-200, 58-200, 59-200, 60-200, 61-200, 62-200, 63-200, 64-200, 65-200, 66-200, 67-200, 68-200, 69-200, 70-200, 71-200, 72-200, 73-200, 74-200, 75-200, 76-200, 77-200, 78-200, 79-200, 80-200, 81-200, 82-200, 83-200, 84-200, 85-200, 86-200, 87-200, 88-200, 89-200, 90-200, 91-200, 92-200, 93-200, 94-200, 95-200, 96-200, 97-200, 98-200, 99-200, 100-200.

PRESIDENT'S XI

G M Wood c Morris b Fraser —
D F R Morris c Morris b Small —
W Anderson c Atherton b Small —
T M Moody not out —
M F Lumb run out —
M J Morris b Small 18
T Watson b Lewis 10
B Atherton b Watson 10
J Anderson b Watson 20
Extras (6 w, 12 n, 10 b) 20
Total (7 wkt, 47 overs) 206

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-63, 3-63, 4-100, 5-180, 6-165, 7-185, 8-195, 9-200, 10-200, 11-200, 12-200, 13-200, 14-200, 15-200, 16-200, 17-200, 18-200, 19-200, 20-200, 21-200, 22-200, 23-200, 24-200, 25-200, 26-200, 27-200, 28-200, 29-200, 30-200, 31-200, 32-200, 33-200, 34-200, 35-200, 36-200, 37-200, 38-200, 39-200, 40-200, 41-200, 42-200, 43-200, 44-200, 45-200, 46-200, 47-200, 48-200, 49-200, 50-200, 51-200, 52-200, 53-200, 54-200, 55-200, 56-200, 57-200, 58-200, 59-200, 60-200, 61-200, 62-200, 63-200, 64-200, 65-200, 66-200, 67-200, 68-200, 69-200, 70-200, 71-200, 72-200, 73-200, 74-200, 75-200, 76-200, 77-200, 78-200, 79-200, 80-200, 81-200, 82-200, 83-200, 84-200, 85-200, 86-200, 87-200, 88-200, 89-200, 90-200, 91-200, 92-200, 93-200, 94-200, 95-200, 96-200, 97-200, 98-200, 99-200, 100-200.

ENGLAND XI

M A Atherton D Banton —
W Anderson c Atherton b Small —
T M Moody not out —
M F Lumb run out —
M J Morris b Small 18
T Watson b Lewis 10
B Atherton b Watson 10
J Anderson b Watson 20
Extras (6 w, 12 n, 10 b) 20
Total (7 wkt, 47 overs) 206

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-63, 3-63,